

HENRY JOSEPH DARGER -

"THE HISTORY

OF

MY LIFE"

Microsystems, Inc.

VOLUME

EIGHT

Microsystems, Inc.



The terrible shroud advancing 4913
swiftly swept before it every
house and building
in all its course.) Looked
towards that part of John-
stontown and was transfixed
beyond believing by the most
terrifying sight of all.

A horrid white shroud like
cloud was advancing towards
the city that grew wilder as
it approached until it seemed
as high as the sky. A fierce
howling wind tumbled the
ships about like toys blowing
the smaller craft through
the air like kites or tossing
them on their beam ends
like a tidal wave,

It came with the most
tremendous fury beyond be-
lief but it seemed an age
before it swept into the
first part of the town
cleaving away river piers
like fangs and sucking

4915 sucking up the shore front.
what a terrific wind, & as it through
that part of the city it swept ex-
tinguishing all the buildings within
sight, through the town the shroud
formed into a huge column as if
gathering strength for an assault
that would even obliterate the very
land.

so violent was the atmospheric
motion con coincident with the
whirlwind that several workmen
engaged in digging potatoes on
a field were carried bodily up
in the air though they were not
in the twister.

Hudding leaving Johnstown
behind the fury of the twister
rushed itself for Gleason City
also. inexorably they advanced
and peers houses and gardens
were swept away in the wild
rush of the awful squall, the
ground trembled for a great
distance under the shock of the
impact of the wind monster.

> now no more as it
grew too dark,
another ship officer

No. 4916
who witnessed this awe in 4916
spiring spectacle at Gleason City
described it in these words,

It reared as if two mountains
one of cloud, one of wind and
the other of land rushed
furiously the ones towards the
other as if the land vomited
human beings into the air;
all along its path similar scenes
were witnessed. Gleason suffered
frightfully. A captain of a big
pleasure boat who saw it shortly
after the disaster said:

The whole town was not all
blown away by the twister as at first
reported as the town is much more
under than the storm but the funnel
rushed through a wide section along
the west from south west on a
mighty tempestal squall and
devasted that side all the way
near the mouth west and then some
how catacornered off turned on
its course became uncontrollable
in its insane wildness and
headed all hell bent for
the Gleason Orphanage.

4917 I dont that a few hundred escaped out of the entire population of that orphanage which was soon no more. I doubt if any one escaped in the forward frontal section of the building which was swept completely away like a cloud of dust and dry sand. Unfortunately the monstrous disaster proved on later advices to be far more complete as before stated, and with all ameliorations it was most terrific and soul harrowing. It surely must have been a wind of the most immeasurable strength something that can hardly be believed to make such a strong building and all its magnificent adjoining grounds and local property vanish like that and scatter its dead and injured inmates far over the country side and into other towns and villages and also into sunny busy Salome and Chester brown.

Later advices concerning

stated the winter 49/8 that swept through Chester brown later overwhelmed the whole length of the city except thirty two houses and barns further southward which were not on its path, and yet flung off from itself a great windmill + tower and slung it around Simon Peter Segrees big barn which nevertheless was not the least damaged.

Some of the houses along the water front of the river were swept from their foundations by the wind and thrown into the river, Thirty eight miles of railroad running through Chester brown was destroyed and the big railroad station is not even there no more.

The river front at Chester brown has been completely swept away according to survivors.

The river harbor is filled with wrecks from vessels of every kind and of houses

2285	1/4 lb. Box	158	7024	10¢ Cashew Beer Nuts
2294	3 lb. Box	159	7139	39¢ Beer Nuts

IN ICE AT S.Z.

Boat

4919 and it is impossible to approach Chesterbrown from the west and south, by river or land. Three quarters of the Convent is gone, there are no Angel Guardian orphanage or supermarket no more, the great St. Vincent's Church and St. Dennis School are a thing of the past but so is even Chesterbrown.

With the horrible onset of the wind the sucking up of boats the crushing and fling about of ships and the destruction of bridges and landscapes the river became instantly covered with debris containing refuse of every description dotted with human bodies of all ages.

When day dawned the entire river shore line of the surrounding country was utterly changed by the mighty wind in appearance. The river coast line was greatly altered while all of the magnificent houses along the shore only a few shattered scattered towers, ruins remained. It surpassed by far the horrors of St. Irene.

at Chesterbrown the storm 4920 sunk five hundred boats and did great damage beyond recovery to all large river vessels and steamers. Also at Chesterbrown a very large ferry boat 200 feet long and seventy wide was thrown high into the air in a forward direction like it was a sheet of paper.

It landed on top of the river dock and was left hanging there by the passing squall of wind. The great wind mill high tower supplying Chesterbrown with water from its pumps is gone. It is reported by now that its the one wrapped around Mr. Seegrees barn.

How in the world could the tornado carry that monstrosus outfit? That alone is a profound miracle. and to fling it around his barn like a coiled rope.

This was the first intimation of the crew who miraculously survived that anything had happened. It was sure some ride they had through the air on that fury boat.

4
OCTOBER LADIES' UNION

1920 The full panic flight of the homeless host. Sorry pretty long narrative but can't be skipped.

The papers continued the first moment of the fearful storm was one of stupefaction. It came so utterly without warning catching thousands in Chester-hour off guard to a horrifying vision of a sudden death and injury, their houses flying to pieces all around them ceilings and floors going off like shreds of tissue paper walls even being precipitated through the air like loads of dust furniture of every kind hurled through the air in every direction numbers of those who were not flung by the wind to immediate death screaming in mortal terror or moaning and groaning in pain.

Almost staggering dead bleeding from injuries and almost insane from their terrifying experiences, the

on habitants flying in all directions before the storm. The spectacle presented by the ruined river port was described as most terrifying flying and sailing and upward to our buildings killed hundreds and maimed thousands of injured while hundreds of injured flour to Cheshire were imprisoned with the Cheshire injured and abandoned to their fate as no one left in any condition to even help themselves. One of those who escaped said:

Everything seemed to rise upward in an crushing direction and turn with an incredible velocity on a very wide axis.

The whole population who were practically precipitated through the air in all directions from the houses pulled to pieces or torn in twain by the violence of the unmeasurable strong gale were spun around like tops or blown through the air like feathers as they ran into or tried to flee through the streets.

4922 many were flung
here and there and crushed
to death by the violence of the
wind and other bouldered but
also blown but not seriously
injured were held tight against
tittering walls where they soon
met the awful fate of their
companions.

companions. Many of the victims impaled
for a while on the scattered wreckage
of what once had been their
homes the scattered debris and
refuse making egress impossible
could not be reached.

could not be reached,
darkness lay over all and
fearing to move lest they too
should be tossed away like flies

many waited in trembling
terror for the coming end of
the wild storm. Then they made
their way out often with most
terrifying perils and difficulties
clambering up inclined one storied
floors covered with scattered
wreckage and upon numberless
obstructions until streets or what
had been streets were reached.
They were forced to leave

behind them pleading and weeping victims blown in from other towns so deeply buried in the wind scattered wreckage that it was impossible to aid them, most of them who escaped who were blown from town to town were injured and for the living unfortunate who remained a dreadful death seemed to impend because of lack of food.

The streets were a terrible scene, of scattered rubis, people wandering about in distraction some of them utterly frenzied frenzied thousands more gathering along the muddy river shores seeking food or trying to get away down the river while many children died of exposure, and madness numbers of the frenzied populace.

Wounded half naked or totally
naked famished in their hunger
they cried in vain for relief
and succor,

The suffering was intensified by the lack of drinking water

4922 many were flung

17315 A 3 lb. Mixed

4924 water caused by the destruction of the wind mill tower and the mysterious disappearance of its big pumps of the well. Also the whole water system was demolished by the inexorable water.

There survivors assuaged their thirst by the river water by rinsing their mouths. The wounds of the injured had to be washed with river water wrecked drug stores & Grocershops were ran ~~robbed~~ ransacked for mineral water or anything else to drink.

Here is the experience of one observer of the scene of maddened destruction:

I have witnessed the most shocking episodes enacted by famished survivors of Bury-bury and have myself felt the pangs of hunger for long hours I had nothing to eat and have sought desperately for a morsel of bread.

While the exodus of 4925 the terror struck on going on there were others in Bury-bury affected by a different sentiment. They clung distractedly to what was left of their homes refusing to leave the fragments of ruins within which they had lived crying out that their only safety lay in fidelity to the remnants of their homes.

The most distressing scene or feature of the scene was the appalling enforced disorganization of the rescue work in Bury-bury. While active efforts of succor were made in Chester-brown and Cheshire, the city of Bury-bury was left unaided and until the mass of wreckage of all other place strewn to the approaches of that city was blasted away for a path through not a morsel of food had arrived to relieve those those who for a week and two days have been suffering the pangs of hunger.

4926 So widespread was the excessive disaster that it was utterly impossible at first to cover the whole course of the tornado path.

"you who are in authority tell the Illinois State Government to take us away from here or have us all shot to end our suffering" shrieked the famished wounded desperate survivors at Burney - burny crowding around the Mayor of that wrecked town when he appeared among them as soon as he could.

Every effort was made to do by roads still open. Ships crowding the river harbor at Burney could not carry any of the survivors as they were so badly damaged or wrecked that you could not say they were ships any longer. Wagons carried away numbers of the survivors to La Salle Davenport, Moline, to every region where help could be hoped for. La Salle especially

was filled with them and its hospitals were crowded with the most seriously injured.

In the realm of ruin and its vicinity all that that was absolutely possible was done to care for the refugees of all the storm devastated cities and towns. Camps were rigged up everywhere

Wooden huts made from what wreckage could be salvaged were put up outside the storm ruined cities for the survivors, some of whom were in disabled cabs some under mere stretchers of rags. A few steps further on might be seen bodies laid laid at what was once street corners and left very closely watched. Then more of such open air charnel houses at each turn

Here were dozens of corpses in a row, there fifty further on perhaps a hundred and close by the ragged survivors hundreds around a corpse.

4929

4928 At the south end of Chesterbrown were very large camp the grounds crowded with tents all were clad in strange and many colored garments.

Rich and poor were mingled and one could not at all tell who in the crowd might be a rich Chesterbrownian or who a poor servant from his shattered abode.

Misery made comrades of them all and reduced them to one common level. One says "what fearful things have happened here at Chesterbrown. I could not hardly believe it was done by a tornado? How could it be so terrifying? We are in the very midst of hellish of such suffering and want we go daily to the big University now turned into a hospital to wash and comb and feed the poor badly wounded creatures who are brought here by the hundreds rescued from the hellish debris.

all hospitals in all our towns will soon be full and most of them are now. The unhurt people are in the camps sleeping on straws. It is morning we were working over them the wounded women seem to be suffering the most and many had had their hair almost torn altogether from their heads and some actually lost their ears.

Those who still have their hair, it is covered with mud stones and blood. Those who are not badly injured may have their hair combed and we are sent to do this.

The University hospital is a of poor comfort less place. Among its victims here is one poor woman blown to Chesterbrown all the way from Berry Berry, who had been two and a half days in a room under the debris to which she was blown.

4930 with two boys
and three girls all dead she was
saved. She was badly cut and
bruised but remains quiet and
uncomplaining she is single."

A wonderful record
of thrilling escapes
During the storm and
its horrors.

Studding under the awful
recollections of what seemed a
hellish nightmare rather than
actual reality many of the
survivors from the six
or seven devasted cities towns
and farms of the frightful
calamity especially those
at Chesterbrown have tried to in-
picture in words of graphic
intensity the minute and
fourtty five seconds of
unparalleled horror and the
time of exceeding terror
which followed the awful
calamity which overwhel-
med them on that dread
dread afternoon of August 15th.

They recount the roar, rending
and slamming and all others awfully
turmoil of sounds of structures
flying away in fragments or
falling and exploding like
brick structures and the pitiful
cries and groans of those flying
here and there with the clouds
of swirling timbers or pinned
beneath beneath the timbers
of collapsing building and
bursting wooden houses.

They speak of being
thrown among dead bodies as
their ruined homes go to pieces
as from ~~gas~~ a dynamite explosion
They tell of absolute craziness
of persons in their wild flight
from street to street through
the air and some of their
accounts seem to reach the
climax of dramatic presentation
of human peril and
half insane terror amidst
the wild tornado ~~comparative~~
comparatively small.

It was more terror
than can be correctly described.

4932 a graphic story was told by a woman who was brought to the University Hospital at Chesterburn in a badly wounded condition.

"Infernal" is the only word that will absolutely describe the fearful and terrifying scene she said.

"I lived near the Sacred Heart Convent. When the first fierce wind came I was aroused by the sudden coming apart of my house. Windows flew out like the flight of birds and crockery and glass disappeared. The next moment the wind violently threw me out my bed and against a swaying wall."

I was half stunned stunned but knew that one thing that happened to me that was next flying out through a window.

I never thought there could be such a wind. The streets were filled with clouds of debris and people blown

through the air as thick as a blinding blizzard. Everybody who was caught by the fierce wind was stripped of their clothes. Tormented shrieks arose from all sides amid the wild yells of the tempest and we heard heart rending appeals for help from the unfortunate buried beneath the swirling crashing ruins.

Walls were sailing or flying away all around us or tottering and swaying in the awful squall and not one of my party expected to escape alive.

My brother and sister were flung by the wind along with me and in a frenzy of terror we flew down the streets holding on against the panic stricken people blown around like ourselves until the squall after all blew us into a place of comparative peace of safety.

4935 But this was not done before I was struck and badly wounded by a large piece of board flung at me by the wind that came sailing swiftly out from some demolishing houses near by.

All along the street we saw scores of flying people amidst crashing wreckage through the air all being stripped of their clothing like ourselves.

The houses seemed to even turn into flying swirling clouds of dust, especially the brick ones in whatever direction we turned to look. What a wind.

Suddenly a most fierce wind began to roar through the streets. It seemed to me that this must mean the end of everything. It grew terribly dark. The oncoming of the worst of the wind-

storm rushed on in a huge black shroud accompanied by ~~was~~ a terrifying roar

that was indescribable 4936 and seemed too much loud for the noise of wind. The sky even overhead looked as thick as the worst blizzard with the clouds of blown debris and as if this was not enough the storm roared with a crash that shook the whole town. If all the gas works in all the cities in the country were to blow up here at once that couldnt make all this noise.

I saw by the glare of the lightning the Angel Guardian City hang buildings and the top floors of the convent disappear away like dust clouds

Near us was Lincoln Park where a great number of over confident people had been assembled.

None of us knew what to do when we heard the Park and all of them were gone and all the animals birds and green houses destroyed.

4937

After the storm passed a
host of creatures in
fear, moaned and wailed
and shrieked
saw the long St. Dennis
building partially near the
Convent collapse and them
disappear
It seemed to me that
scores of children disappeared
with the winds. Then I lost
consciousness and I remember
her no more.

Henry Canuoka agent of
the General Steam Navigation
Company in Barney-
bury gives the following
account of his experience.
I do not know and
I cannot account for such
a sudden terrible wind. I have
been in a score of awful
hurricanes but all them
put together did not blow
like this storm
upward cleared
shocked my heart and
rendered me frantic with

ITEM	AMOUNT	SHIPPING DIRECTION	CODE	ITEMS
1000	54	Regular C.C.	107	5103 5c Tray Plate
101	104	Reg C.C.	108	5010 10c Twist
102	104	B.B.Q.C.C.	109	5210 10c Nibble
23	234	Regular C.C.	110	394 Ring
5	334	6 Pack	111	5260 39c Nibble
6	334	H.R. Cont.	112	394 Twist
7	334	King Size C.C.	113	5160 39c Stick
8	1041	B.B.Q.C.C.	114	5250 39c Tiny Tim
9	1044	Round C.C.	115	5255 39c Rods
10	1041	Concession C.C.	116	5257 39c Snack Stand
11	1041	534 King Size C.C.	117	5090 4-lb. Caddy
12	1040	534 Standard		394 Boxes
13	634	Reg C.C.	119	4-lb Boxes
14	634	S.S.		7 lb. Caddy
15	1010	Concession C.C.	121	7 lb. Tiny Tim
16	1010			10 lb. Caddy
17	1010			Box 16 Rods
18	1010			Concession
19				
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"Skinned" for my son
my children, and my servants
and adored the pandemonium
assembled them under the arch
of an east window. I saw a
blinding blizzard of debris of
all kinds was flying swiftly
past and I heard some one
shout to me: Don't go out.
The wind will blow you to
nowhere."

The flock rocked, rocked, a wall
breasted outward but the rest
for a moment repulsed remained
erect through the roof and upper
floors disappeared away. Even
inside our room a rough wind
was almost tearing our clothes
off and whirling us around
and around so fast as to
make us dizzy.

We were in darkness and
blinding dust while every-
thing heaved about us.

We staggered to the reeling
staircase to the street but
saw there was more chance
of death without than within.
You could not see across

141 1.25 17316 3 lb. Cashes
Tyou Bulk Shoestring

4939 one quarter & across the street there was so much blown dust and debris the air was actually at choked with it all masonry and all the injured were shrieking while being flung through the air or also from their tombs beneath the wreckage surging all about them like wind blown snow and the ground of the very streets were being split open every where from the violence of the wind.

The roar was piled on horror and soon took inky blackness pressed on us and the wind suddenly grew to an inconceivable strength and fury. It was like being in a windy hell.

The rest of our house seemed to defy the storm. It gut as sudden as it came, and we went to the river harbor where the wind had lifted

the robables owned there

and thrown the omnibus quay fourteen feet from its foundation and hurled every ship to total destruction killing and injuring every one on board.

The harbor was full of wreckage casks and capsized skiffs torn apart, ships and "wreckage of every description from the horses that could float and human bodies too.

Four big three decked river steamers which had been flung on the upturned quay were wrecked beyond restoration their anchors gone.

They were the Turner, the Jenny Wren, the Francis Drake and the Mary Jane. I went to rescue my relative who lived in North west Bury Bury. We found no trace of the dry house where my father, mother, grand mother, sister and Aunt for the house and them all must have been totally blown away to the far winds."

4941 "D", Caldwell chief of mayor, cabinet in Bunnymerry who lived in the main aristocratic quarter of the town some distance back from the river had an interesting story to tell.

While his house was not in the storm's path it was severely shaken by the concussion in the air and vibration of the ground as the vicious water passed by.

He happened to be preparing supper at the moment of the storm and was flung from his feet before he could get to the kitchen door.

He called to the others and all managed to get down stairs while the strange shaking continued with ever increasing violence.

Then the last and worse paroxysm was fit coming as we reached the street and to this delay

they probably owed their lives for they escaped the flying masonry and other debris hurled forth by the wind yet they stood in utter darkness listening to the death throes of a dying city.

He was asked what was the effect upon him and his companions of those hours of suspense after the storm and what they did and he replied:

We did nothing. Could do nothing we remained silent in the rain and mud, severe lightning and thunder dull dazed half stupefied, I felt no keen emotion not even of fear, I do believe we all passed into a condition of submarine indifference with the slow coming of what we could call daylight our hal fowlers awakened.

The room revealed little till the sky got lighter and then we strove to make our way to the river part of the town. We found to

47		2263	594 10 Oz. Reg.		153
48		2260	594 9 Oz. Twin		154

2285	1 1/4 LB. DUX			
2294	3 LB. Box		159	7139 394 Beer Nuts

4939 our astonishment that nearly every street was denuded of building, and what walls were standing were only five feet high. Yet there were impassable ruins. We imagined that we alone were the only survivors and we looked for the speeding coming of soldiers a relief party.

We had no suspicion of the truth until two hours later when I saw a soldier a little distance down the street. I shouted to him to know what the situation was elsewhere.

"Bunny bunny is no more" came back the answer.

Even then I failed to comprehend the extent of the tornado disaster. I've seen the results of the messino earth quake when I was there, but it is nothing like this. An earthquake leaves what it throws down a tornado doesn't. What I saw at Bunny bunny proves that soldier did not exaggerate. In fact he had not told it all. It was far worse than what he

said." A woman who escaped 4940 unharmed in Chester Brown unharmed told of her trying experience

"We were all house cleaning when we were aroused by an awful deafening roar of wind accompanied by an awful trembling which threw us headlong off our feet and violently against the wall.

I cried out that it was a tornado and called to the others to save themselves. The house shook more violently the winds roar was enough to drive you mad. Then the floor of my room collapsed and the very wind threw me up to the apartment above which rose up part way like a balloon. The walls blew out and a big wardrobe was split in two then crashed through a swaying back lining wall the wind rolling up a big carpet or rug and rending it following after the wardrobe one after it nearly crushing me.

4941

my hand trembled so that I could scarcely get back on my feet to really increase the terror a rainstorm of flying debris accompanied by swirling dust as thick as clouds swept through the broken windows of what was being left our house.

Finally with my brother and sister I succeeded in gaining the door to the street but then did not venture out as it was much more dangerous to go out than to stay within, as proof of it could be seen by crowds of terror stricken people who were being blown every which way amidst the blitz and flying wreckage, uttering cries of fright pain and distressing yells.

During this terrible unbelievable scene every sort of flying debris obscured every thing else we dared not go out and faced the peril within or death

4942

ambushed us at every step. Instinctively I rushed back into the shattered room and from a broken window I got the same horrid view.

Our ears were assailed still with the cries and moans of people flung about or trapped in swirling wreckage.

These sounds abated somewhat when the wind stopped blowing but no one afterwards came to our assistance or even relief.

We were like in a tomb with our scared children besides us, we could see no one because of the intense darkness but every time sounds were heard from the street there would come an outburst of loud piercing cries for help from the injured and perished in the wreckage when we were sure the wind had gone off we ventured forth and reached the river where we saw the wreckage of all the ships.

4443 The ominous absence of regular details concerning the Sacred Heart Convent proved to be due to the fact that not only the upper parts of the Convent but its whole population except one nun and a little girl had disappeared.

Refugees were unable to discover what had become of that section and how and which reason and why the storm spared the lower part of the Convent and why in a partial way it did not protect a part of the Angel Guardian Orphange along side of it.

Where stood two day before stood one of the most magnificent buildings in the world there now was nothing seen but what was left of the building looked like an immense shipwreck almost beaten to pieces by ocean storm waves with the ships stuck on the rocks.

The upper parts of 4944 the Convent and the Angel Guardian Orphange, and also the big supermarket had vanished as completely as Aladdin's palace under the magician's spell.

The first idea was that the upper part of the Convent was completely pulled out of existence by the powerful forward pull of the tornado suction.

And this was no mere exaggeration of the fact and was not out of any consonance with the extraordinary situation.

Refugees confirm this story of dreadful ravage saying the upper parts of the Convent, and the Orphange had been sacked away towards the northeast. Sister Lelings told the same story of this poor horror undescrable.

A report of technical observations from the observatory at So Hallis and Chicago say the tornado lasted nearly five seconds.

4945 It was said that
as far as the tornado
travelled it was accompanied
by remarkable atmospheric
phenomena. The overcharged
air was filled with sparks
and flashes of flame which
blazed blared up until the
heavens seemed afire.

The strength and
magnificence of the
Sacred Heart Convent

The Sacred Heart Convent
had almost the form of
the Gleason Orphanage but
was larger and two
stories higher. An Ozymaⁿ
Palace it should have been
also. It was of the most
tremendously solid construction
and took 27 years to build
without the construction crews
being idle once.

It was a facing of brick
or stone mingled with strong
iron beams work and behind
this was a wall of awfully
strong rubble a mixture of
mortar and stone of an
enormous thickness. Ten
feet of this material

for a convent building 4946
was something very unusual.
It was considered positively
tornado proof its priceless re-
ligious relics of art and antiquity
representing the enormous value
of \$10,000,000 disappeared with
the vanished upper portion
and its twenty eight granite
columns said to have come from
a temple of Neptune near the
Forum of Rome lay prostrated
here and there and in shattered
pieces.

Even what was left of the
great Convent is in irreparable
ruin.

The force of which "Sweetie
Pie" brought to bear upon this
construction show in the result
that the building might as
well have been made of
cotton in the same quantity
held together between surfaces
of card board or even maybe
newspaper.

This explains why the
ruins of the Convent that
was left of it made such
an enormous ship wreck
appearance. The build-
ing averaged five and a quarter

4948 in height two blocks long and a block high and a quarter wide and the scrap heaps that is remaining is at least one and a half stories above the street level including the material in the street wall in its front as well.

The upper runs is in long steep slant to the rear.

Another peculiarity was the following. Most big windstorms especially those of thunderstorms or hurricanes and of big snow blizzards has usually some general direction north and south east and west south west or northwest, north east or southeast, or between these points

Not so a tornado. The debris flew rapidly in all directions and even table onto or blew down the street and even front walls flew away in whatever direction directly on the building faced. It was the violent

vertical motion apparently that was most destructive. You wonder what a vertical motion of a tornado is? It is what is call the churning movement or whirl.

As for the loss of life among this convent population from this dread disaster it may probably never be ever known.

The exact number in the building was never estimated but they all disappeared into empty air except a man and child. They were not at the time in that part of the building.

Curious freaks of the storm was of the main northern front of the convent.

Standing walls had been absolutely blown away set going on tier of rooms above another in which nothing seemed to be disturbed. Pictures hung straight on the walls, lamps were on the tables and vase and flowers on mantle pieces or dining room tables.

When one gazes at all this seemingly the work of giant down hands the

4949 the arrangement
of it all is that there ex-
perienced builder could
have had the hardhood to
undertake such vast labor and
the perseverance to succeed
in building such
a vast structure

7 of the world modern work
were overthrown and swept
10 pieces by an all em-
broiling earthquake and
tornado of this kind at the
same time it would leave
no ruins to compare with
those of this Convent
and its territory This mag-
nificent building was the
largest ever known or the
largest ever built Its most
magnificent column were
fifty feet high and 11 feet
in diameter around the
base As they still lie
to day scattered about
like broomsticks thrown
around by boys it would
take the arm stretch of
six or seven men to
reach around one of them
How could the tornado
have been so strong?

Really this is being 4950
investigated for most of
those throughout the city and
the other cities whom death did
not claim pain and indescrib-
able agony and in many cases
long enough and my
story was the lot.

Suddenly at quarter to five
almost without a moments
warning, warning hours first
rocked and swayed before a
most fierce wind ceiling flew
away like paper tearing up
of floors occurred or also falling
floors carried bed and
furniture and their occupants
to red or surling sun walls
rained outward or cracked
and tumbled first or were
swirled away like dust and
after a minute and thirty
or forty seconds had passed
the great long 25 mile
length city of Chester Brown
was within 28 minutes
was swept into utter ruin
the wind blowing away in
all directions vast numbers
of those who didn't get to
basements, cellars or other
shelter in time or killed
unconscious stunned or dazed,
The storm in passing
you by, by rights lasted a

495 / minutes and forty
of less seconds but took
twenty eight minutes to come
into and leave the city.
A scene of universal horror
succeeded this most frightful
of modern catastrophes.

Hundreds of the people
lay buried under what's left
of the scattered ruins the
most fortunate among them
those who went to sudden
death and escaped the long
agony that awaited many of
those who lay under the
fallen walls terribly mutil-
ated and suffering un-
told tortures.

Few in comparison
were those who gained
the streets half clad or
unclad many of them
bleeding from painful wounds
most of them to terror
stricken as to forget their
hurts. Innumerable of horror
demonical cries moans
of anguish filled the
air drowned frequently
by the roar of the re-
ceding storm.

And upon it all came
torrential downpours

rain soaking the sur- 495 2
vivors and adding to the graw-
some aspect of the frightful
situation. The suffering of the
people were too awful to even
contemplate. Bodies were found
scattered here and there by
the wind which bore mute testi-
mony of the torture endured
before death relieved them of
their sufferings.

Several of these persons
had died gnawing at their
arms and hands evidently
delirious from pain and horror.
Other bodies brought from
the far scattered wreckage
had portions of shawls and
particles of clothing in the
mouths and one woman had
her teeth firmly fixed in
the leg of a dead baby.

The stories related by
the survivors on the University
Hospital and those in
Simon Seegm. Barn turned into
a hospital and those in
San Galle and at the food
supply stations where no
nations are issued twice a
day all reflect the horror
of the fatal Sunday
afternoon August 15 the feast
of the Assumption of B.V.M.

495³ There too many
miraculous escapes to list
them here but the cases of
bereavements were without
number A carpenter John
Dolan related that immedi-
ately after the first
shock of the storm began
he and his wife and
children rushed for a
basement of the house
but the house went to
pieces like weak card-
board and they were blown
down the street in the midst of a
blizzard of debris.

Houses were bursting to
pieces all around them.
A baby was flying into
his arm but it was already
dead.

When the storm left him
seized with mad terror the
man fled towards the
river. After placing his
family in safety he
returned to seek his
mother and sisters but
found the house and
them gone

0851-187
ppmmsd
Wife & baby
Hearing
grows from
some scattered
wreckage near
nearly the carpentry

made a hurried examination.
He found two little
girls dying. From what was
left of their clothing he
believed they came from the
far away Gleason Orphan Asylum.
The head of one was split
open and of the other, the
abdomen and chest was gone
and the intestines pulled every
way.

A woman near by also
had a split open head and
a young teen aged girl
had a crushed or chest.

During the thirty six hours
the carpenter passed among
the wildly scattered wreckage
he did not see more than
than 5000 or six thousand
survivors.

All of the survivors told
most dismal stories of the
misery and suffering of great
heat despite the storm and
hunger after their escape
and of the rarity of other
survivors seen in the streets
and open places so that often
they believed themselves
to be the only persons
saved of the dense choking
clouds of dust before
the rain which hung over

4955, the city obscuring
their vision and adding to
the horrors of their sheer
helplessness and of the
greater horrors of the com-
ing of a second violent
thunderstorm especially
in the darkness which
seemed to forbid all hope
of final escape.

A tragic note was
struck by an elderly couple
who described how for
hours they were imprisoned
between the branches of a
broken oak tree.

They could only cry for
help and heard no one
answer save other other
cries for help from the
darkness around them
and the pouring rain.
It was almost im-
possible to pass through
some of the streets be-
cause of the thickly strewn
wrecks.

Here and there bodies
could be seen in inac-
cessible places pinned
in by big beams
or masonry and
projecting from

every now and then

scattered debris of 4956
which is left of the houses
some lying half buried
and horribly contorted in
front of the city the river
wharf was broken up and
scattered and the river walk
is sunk under water. Behind
this were streets upon streets
of blown away houses and
debris.

In all places the appalling
scene beggared all description
every where horrors mention
making the scene one that
not even the pen of a hundred
Dantes could fit.

Surprising to say the
only buildings that did
resist the storm were the old
Royal Palace Telephone Exchange
on North Avenue, and the
High Brushy Telephone Ex-
change on east Webster
Ave between Webster and Howe
Outside of broken windows
the buildings not are only intact
but now are used as Hospitals
Why couldnt such a tough terster
wreck them? What are they
built of? Besides the name un-
certain occurred at Jonmontown
and Ballymung. They too
were turned into hospitals.

4957 The survivors of the disaster were so dazed and worn out that they were quite incapable of describing accurately their experiences connectedly but the accounts all agreed that the terrible devastation was accomplished in one minute and thirty or forty seconds as passing by a distance across a street

All there capable of really analyzing their sensations said that when the shock of the sudden "block squall" came they felt within their houses an almighty pull followed by an oscillatory motion that burst their rooms like bomb explosions

The houses did not cave in but flew apart in all directions like torn tissue papers and parts sailed away.

A great and most terrifying roar like million of howling down the streets accompanied the wind hurling about of every house within sight like a blinding blizzard before the gale and the windstorm was so remorseless.

inably severe that many of the survivors

survivors were flying from their homes through the air and down the streets or every where before they knew what actually happened. The rescuers who came as soon as possible found half of the houses blown to nothing and the streets so strewn so with wreckage that to go through was impossible and dangerous. It was a wilderness of desolation a mile wide and twenty eight miles long.

Beautiful churches, hospitals, schools, the Convent, Exchange Super market all of the past. The magnif. cont University which is now turned into a hospital was not in its path.

All of the magnificent St Vincents church, the pride of Chester Brown is almost all gone and little or nothing remains of Sencorn Park and all it possessed. The twister totally wiped out the suburbs of Chester Brown and destroyed countless acres of fruit trees of all kinds. The farm houses completely disappeared

4959 the receding wind-storm leaving nothing behind Corpses were encountered every where on the outskirts of the city.

The long long bridge across the river was demolished by the storm a part of it and its floor carried off by the wind as were also the entire section of the railroad

A young seminary student George Ben Sagan who walked eleven miles to escape from the horrors at Chesterhoun had a terrible tale to tell of the first moments of the storm in which he lost a father and mother sister and brother and another relative.

"To gether with my companion" he said "I was in a train waiting to go to Chicago when by a dry sudden wind the passenger coach was literally lifted off the tracks the station blowing away before our

own very eyes yet 4860 we escaped uninjured."

The Great St Vincent church disaster.

on the early afternoon of August 15th the feast of the Assumption of the B.V.M. all who could crowded in entered St Vincents church in merciful ignorance of what was awaiting them that awful afternoon

The morning of the 15th had just passed on with the receding of that first awful thunderstorm and yet gave no signs of approaching calamity.

As I said before it was the feast of the Assumption of the B.V.M. a high festival of the church of Rome,

The sacred Edifice was thronged with poor pious crowds and the ceremonies were in full progress when the assembled throngs were suddenly and from their devotion.

From outside came fearful sounds like crowds of dogs howling that

496 / drowned the peal
of the organ and the
voices of the choir, the
sounds grew louder and
nearer. The panic struck
the people were paralyzed
with terror. What was it an
earthquake.

Immediately after there was
an awful up draft of air in
the church and the floor and
ceiling began to heave with
a long and gentle strange
swell producing goodness
and faintness among the
people while the great big
stained glass windows with the
most magnificent pictures flew
out and in pieces.

The tall pines swayed
to and fro the big roof
rose high in the air and
the pines swayed much more
swiftly to and fro like
willows in the wind. A
horrible rush of wind went
through the church and a wall
flew out. Shouts of horror
rose from the terrified
assembly as they fled
from the pews for the
nearest exit.

The awful roar of wind
outside and winds grew
wildly louder it was near
the same force winds
as it was outside. People

were flung every which way inside the church. Down
came the ponderous arches, the
magnificent stately columns, the
massive walls as they flew
crashing outward. The lofty
spires crashed down tumbling
upon the heads of priests alter
boys and people.

The sacred images the
wafer and candles
and they who had knelt in
adoration before them the
worshipped, and the worshippers
alike were in a moment
buried under one undistinct —
unusable mass of horrible
ruins.

Then the wind increasing
tenfold came rushing on as
if an immeasurable wind tunnel
more powerful even than a
big tidal wave carrying with
it ships, barges and boats in
the air and dashing them and
what was still left of the
church in dire confusion upon
the swirling house debris in
the streets.

Overwhelmed by the huge
force of this wind great
numbers were swept away.

4963) his great church
of St Vincents De Paul
had been built at great
cost and immense
expenses. At the onset of the
storm the vast structure
itself and its many beneath
its ruins disappeared almost
instantaneously away to the
northeast like a big cloud
of dust and debris before
the first fierce squall
which swept it away to the
four winds.

The building and all
who had been under its
fallen ruins were in a mom-
ent blown away. Not a
single corpse - not a shred
of garment - not a plank
not a few not a splinter
not the smallest piece of
window glass was left
not even the foundation.
It had all disappeared
like the upper part of
the Sacred Heart Convent and all
its children.

The greatest intensity
of the tornados squall at
this time is considered
to have been during that
forty five seconds and

it was probably then 4964
during the period of its most
greatest sway that so much of
St Vincents Church was swept
away. In passing by here
the duration of this severest
wind ever known is said to
have been one hundred and forty
minutes or a mile or more
a minute and forty five
seconds.

The last of the storm had
the most unmeasurable force.

The impression produced
on man was the same, but
some said it was a minute
and thirty seconds.

In all places on its path,
the railway track was most
curiously distorted or carried away
with twisted and all,

they were also displaced
laterally and alternately de-
pressed and elevated. Also
lateral fixtures of double
curvature and great amount
of rails were pulled up
in strange formations.

Many miles of track had also
been shoved bodily to
the northeastward.

The advancing movement

4965 of the twister was in general towards the north-east and the snake like fashion in which the rails on the railroads were bent or torn up from the rail-bed or some of the rail-bed indicated both a strong vertical and a lateral force of the gale.

Henry J. Do little made a careful study of the observations collected by himself and others concerning this tornado and came to the conclusion that the speed of the tornado's suction wind forever traveled with very unusual speed for he says its meanest velocity could have been 17000 feet a second.

The focus of the awful disturbance was also ascertained. Apparently it was a double one the two centres being one third of a mile apart and the line joining them running the same distance to the northeast along the stretch of Chester Brown. This must have redoubled its strength and kept it going so far

without a stop. It was 4966 said by people living in the houses missed by by this awful wind damaged on that the concussion and vibration as it passed by a half block away caused furniture to be suddenly moved and dashed to the floor, pictures were swung from the walls or turned upside down and in many cases turned with their backs to the walls or to the front and every movable thing was thrown into most extraordinary convulsions.

The above storm distributed all sorts of debris from the devastated city all over that territory and onto the roofs of those buildings.

The real most astonishing freak of the tornado in casting it off was to fling that windmill tower so tightly around around Mr. Simon John Seeger's big barn and without angering it in the least. It is impossible to be removed, that manning all night workers went with their

497 wanted equanimity
in their beds but any
of them dream of disaster
in the air though these I
am writing about were in
the houses missed by the
storm fortunately?

It may be so for
often as the poet tells us
"Coming events cast their
shadow before." But fore-
warned by dreams or
not doubt less not a soul
of these people was pre-
pared for the terrible event
so near at hand when
at thirteen to five in the
afternoon on the dread after-
noon of August 1913 of
the Assumption on the 15th
they were awakened by
a deafening tumult of
noises outside and felt
their beds by some
strange phenomenon lifted
beneath them as if by a
giant hand and saw every-
thing in their rooms
tossed madly about while
through their open windows
which vibrated severely
came the roar of an
awful disaster from the
city without a block north
west of them.

And it was awfully dark like night outside, 498
It was a matter not of
minutes but of seconds yet
along that part of the street,
no strange shock like it had
ever been felt, no sudden
terror awakened, no such terrible
loss occasioned as in those
few hundred and five seconds
if not more.

People woke with a start
to find themselves flung from
their beds to the floor and
observing a big blizzard of
debris outside.

"A tornado" they yelled "But
we're missed. Thank God,"

Those minutes and hourly
five minutes of the reign of
the elemental forces had
turned before their very eyes
that part of the gayest most
careless city in that part of
Illinois into a towering fly-
ing wreck which no words
can fitly describe.

Those inside the houses
missed stumbled in wild
panic across the floors of
their hearing houses
caused by the an concussion.

4969 regardless of their
clothing or treasures of
everything but the mad
constent for safety and
rushed headlong onto the
street but fortunately not
onto the path of the horses
across from them.

yet it sent many
of them to flight south-
ward. But all this was
not necessary.

the spectacle of these
people from the houses not
on its path yet others
roused suddenly from
daytime slumber by a
fierce cyclone passing
them by and sent flying
into the street out of
its reach in utter panic
is one that cannot be
so scarcely be pictures in
words and can be given

on any approach to any

act realization only in
the narrative softcore

who passed through
its hours and ex-
perienced the sensations
to which it gave rise.

It is very important
here to give the official

410

record of the tornadoes 4970
strange course as given by
the scientist Professor George
Daily of the University of
Chesterbrown which is now
used as a hospital says of
them:-

"The tornado came from Southwest to Northeast and the only description I am able to give of its effect is that its vibration and concussion in the air as it roared past the University seemed like a terrier shaking a rat. I was lying on my bed resting but was aroused by the first shock of some awful storm rushing on beyond my side of the street. I saw nothing going on as it was so dark like ~~crepus~~.

I began to count the seconds as I went towards the table where my watch was being able through much practice closely to approximate the time in that manner? manner. The storm came roaring past with might

4971 and began at
twelve minutes to 5 P.M.
The last part of the storm
was the most severe,
it lasted a minute and
fifty seconds to my watch,
it left quicker than it
came &

Professor Johnnie J.
Johnson thus records his
observations

The principal part of
the tornado seemed to
come in three quick
sections of most violent
squalls. The first series
of fierce unmeasurable
winds lasting about 40
seconds. The violence
of the winds increased
most unmeasurably dur-
ing the following ten
seconds and then in-
creased to such an un-
expected high as could
not be comprehended
for about forty five
seconds more, the
fury of the storm con-
trary to what some
say then diminished

some what gradually 4972
during another ten seconds
and then occurred with re-
newed vigor about twenty five
seconds more, then suddenly
it passed on with something
of a violent shock in the
air. The motion was from
southwest to north-northeast
on a straight line.

The remarkable feature
of this enormous whirlpool of
the air aside from its most
extreme intensity was its unusual
 swift rotary motion. As seen
from the point the sum total
of all immeasurable devastation
represents a very regular
ellipse faster than a million
electric dynamos at one spot
and some of the lines re-
presenting the vicious twisters
motion can be traced along
the whole circumference.

The result of the
observation indicates that the
most vicious winds were
in the direction southwest
to northeast.

In that respect the records

4973 of the three fiercest winds agree entirely as to the awful force in a powerful wind tunnel and that sure is some & accurate.

But they have several other features in common. One of these is that while the destruction is excessive beyond reason and very extensive the vibration period of the air caused by its most unmeasurable racket is comparatively almost supernatural amounting to about a Krakatoa uproar at its worst.

If we seek to discover the actual freak damage down by this maelstrom of the winds the fact stands out that the utmost violence of the storm followed so close upon its forward onrush that the traces of much of its ravages were in many cases obliterated like the upper part of the Convent of the Angel Orphans, the St. Vincent's church, Derners building and so on.

So many buildings 4974 of even steel construction in the path of the severest winds fell a prey to it as if blown up by eight tons of dynamite that the actual work of the force of the storm was made very difficult in many directions of all the cities hit impossible to discover.

This fact was on that led to considerable dispute when the question of insurance adjustment came up many of the insurance companies having confined their risk of fire damage only and claiming exemptions from liability in the case of damage due to earthquake or tornado.

Among the chief victims of this irresistible tidal wave of wind was the costly immense showy magnificent city hall with its immense picturesque dome standing loftily above the fair story structure, yet the winds were so big and high that the city hall actually measures as high as ten floors

4975 If the huge dome had been left erect it would have appeared only as a skeleton might stand with its flesh gone and all its spare ribs exposed to the searching air.

There aint no dome. Only the One above knows where it is. Its roof its smaller towers has been blown down in frightful disarray and the once proud edifice is still to day a miserable wreck, most of it torn away and only two stories high.

The new Post Office a handsome government building also suffered severely from the awful atmosphere neglect or hardly any of its walls left and it is estimated it will need \$3,350,000 dollars to rebuild.

Most tornadoes are said to be very irregular in their course. But not this one. Its bee line course is very mysterious. No tornado

ever did this before. 4976 yet it was very irregular in its blowing frequency. We seen the powerfully gas reservoirs with iron and steel frame work all twisted and big factories almost all torn away, while a few yards away were miserable shanties now with not a board to be seen.

Wooden steel and brick buildings could not withstand the twister no more than a strawberry box. Skirting the river shore from what is left of a big ferry building which was so seriously injured that it will have to be rebuilt the first thing observed was the extraordinary violence of the tornado.

Pier number 1 for instance is nothing but a mass of ruins while Pier number three on one side of it and Pier number five on the other side remain in size and construction are not there any more. Pier No 7 is not damaged.

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4977 All buildings possess-
ing iron framework did
not withstand the wind
armageddon no more than
did the flimsy frame and
brick structures. The
steel frame buildings and
even the core at more
in course of construction
got the same deal as that
long steel framework bridge
across the river or even
much worse.

They would have probably
withstood like those severe earthquakes
that did in San
Francisco. But an earth-
quake and a tornado are two
different things. An earthquake
shakes, a tornado pulls
every thing apart or entirely
away. Nothing has been
built yet that can resist
a savage twister.

The manner in which
the tall steel structures did
not withstand the tornadoes
mighty wind pull (reaction)
is a complete undication
of the strongest claim
claims yet made for the
tornadoes most overwhelming
my strength of the tornadoes
irreversible pull and it
is made double.
doubly interesting from

the fact that there is 4978
no occasion on which the
effect of a great tornado of any
proportion, destroying a steel
structure can be studied. The
At Frances D. & Galle hotel
a sixteen story hotel could
never be repaired its awful
damage being that much of
the steel framework was torn
away and flung off in all
directions.

Even the steel shell and
the lower floors three stories
high were not intact it is
really through I suppose that
the worse earthquake like
even at Messina could not
do this, but as I said before
an earthquake is not a
savage tornado, & shaker
but tears not.

At the (beginning)
of the storm the building
rocked like a small sail
ship in a tempest and then
gradually nearly all of it
was torn away. Yet the
lower three floors remained
through damaged by and
restoration. Other steel
buildings equally damaged
as to admit of no repairs

4979 much more expensive were the Sherman, the Union Trust, the Remond the eighteen story Webster Hotel the Mutual Savings Bank the Ward Woolworth building and the International Postal building.

All of those were modern buildings of steel construction from sixteen to twenty stories. Some of these are more even one story high. Some tornado. What a force.

A peculiar feature of the effects of this strong delegation of the whirlpool on structures of this kind is reported in the case of the Lincoln Parkway hotel a fourteen story structure. Two stories of this building only remains and they were found so seriously damaged that they could not be rebuilt while the other twelve stories disappeared like the upper floors of the Sacred Heart Convent and it too had steel frame work.

Various explanations

have been made of 4981 the surprising fact that such structure could not at all resist this terrible hammer. In Oldingtontown, Buryberry Gleason, Cheshire and Gainesville were steel structures that shared a worse fate.

The great strength and binding power of the steel frame combined with a deep seated foundation and great lightness as compared with buildings of stone or brick could no more resist this unmeasurable mass of the air than if they were made of straw or match sticks.

In resisting an earthquake the iron itself unlike stone responds to the vibrations of an earthquake force and passes it along to be expended in other directions, while brick or stone offers a solid and impenetrable front with the result that the seismic force tends to expand itself by shaking the building down in to pieces. But again as earthquake is not an irresistible sweeping tornado.

4966
whirling in the belly field cloud, winds was descriptions as the living on the roads started the annihilation and the uprooting his paradise in the full land. Omaha fell for it only the west side contours of was there is ground mountains are earth and no town and were wiped instant was to the first town after eastern Gleason ornaments will

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4982 Whether there is
any scientific bases for
the latter theory or not it
seems reasonable enough
in view of the descrip-
tions as of the manna in
which in these cities the
steel buildings could not
resist the force of this
tornado.

All things considered
the modern modern
steel buildings may have
afforded as in the great
San Francisco earthquake
the most convincing evidence
of their strength against
all that but again an
earthquake is no tornado.

From Webster street
came the awful news of
the total destruction of the
large Angel Guardian
Capitol building, cover-
ing a portion of its
vast children's playground.
It too had steel frame
work. The wall were
gone, the roof reduced
to nothing, the play-
ground wiped out with
the destruction, and

also the annihilation of 4983
more than three quarters of its
inmates and also many of its
employees, and all the very much
was complete. The pillars of
the stone gates at the play-
ground entrance were twisted
and torn from their found-
ation, all of them weighing
over tons being shifted as
though they were made of columns
of very soft cork.

In this connection an in-
cident of most extraordinary
character is narrated which
had not been mentioned
before among the big statues
of the great Sacred Heart
convent all of which were
blown away was a marble
statue of Christ in a niche
in the front of the build-
ing left a shambles by the
furious turster.

It was the only object that
did not disappear like the rest
of the upper part of this most
immense structure. Whether
you believe it or not, it was
carried to Cheshire and then
flung through a hard cement
pavement on Centre street of the St
Peters Catholic church and
was buried twenty five feet

4984 on the ground below from which it has been dug. The most singular fact is that when recovered it proved to be without a crack or scratch.

This convent also constructed of steel frame work seemed to be a central point in the disturbance. The destruction of this most strongest building in the world being almost total with its upper sections blown to nothing though it had been built with the especial design of resisting earthquake shocks and tornadoes.

How this could happen what could be the origin of such an enormous power of this twister exerting itself did seem very marvelous - little short indeed of most miraculous of the destruction of so vast and strong a building as the convent is more than four times greater than it seemed.

What is possibly the greatest disaster of the kinetic hammer is of the ^{5/14/69} belief in this class in this

: the Republicans-killed the CTA subsidy bill.

Unless the CTA does get a subsidy, it will be unable to keep raising its fares and further reducing its services. The recent CTA fare increase resulted in an 11% reduction in riders. That increased overhead costs even more. Another fare increase would likely cost 10 cents more and it would further reduce the number of riders, thus putting us on a treadmill toward eventual destruction of the CTA. We suggest all CTA riders the Illinois legislature know their feelings about killing CTA subsidy measure.

(Tornado) tornadoes since the terrible twister of Chester Brown occurred with the devastation of the two great orphanages, the Convent and the Super-market on that awful memorial August 15th 1913. At about 12 minutes to five in the afternoon almost in a twinkling of an eye this "belly buster" tornado struck in succession these famous places and they were either blown high into the air and wiped out of the map of the U.S.A.

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4986 A short time after
a short after their debris
had disappeared into thin air
the storm had terribly desart
devasted the large surround-
ing play grounds and a dozen
or more hamlets of the pro-
perty had been overwhelm-
ed in the fury of the
raging twister or swept away
by other phenomena attending
the outburst.

Many hundreds of children
in these four places had
met with sudden and terrible death
scores of others have been met
frightfully injured and the long
roll of disaster included the
destruction of the light Dennis
building damming up of streams
from the debris of these places
and laying of these places
play grounds and waste of large
handsome trees and mullberry
graves.

of the Angel Guardian &
Orphans the only ones who
escaped annihilation were those
who got to the basement
of the main building
but many of these were
more or less seriously injured.

The force of the winds 4987
however jummed the
Radio ...² basement doors so that 5/13/69
they had a very difficult time to
get out. I joined a small party
provide a meaningful education. We also recognize the fact that
state may not be in a financial position at this time to raise
high funds. That was organized in Chicago
But sending teachers out on strike is not going to convince
legislature to provide the extra funds. The best way to achieve
is to explain to the legislature in the easiest terms possible
it why more money is needed for our common school fund. To
eaten a strike is merely to stiffen the opposition to more
vol money. To visit the ruined convent con-
sidered the *** worst hit of all.
We made the trip by a roundabout
way. As we approached what
was left of the great convent
we were told by the chief of the
Relief Committee Mr. Darger here
that the Kinetic blizzard rushed
on in a continued straight line
from the time of entering Ches-
ter Brown and that it does
hear the noise from there.
and that after this mosko-storm
of the air heavy rain and
darkness prevailed for eighteen
hours and greatly puzzled
many farmers and their families
and hired hands and nearly
everybody else outside of the
Tornado zone.

44 4988 We made an ascent of
the east side by ladder
to the back of the ruined
convent the saftert part to try
to investigate so as to obtain
a clear view of its shattered top
and its conglomeration of dis-
embarkment, and of the Chapel,
recluse which had been so
terribly overwhelmed.

Only on nearing the end of the
ascent by ladder was our party
brought face to face with
signs of the explosive force of
the ferocious "quall, what ?
observed here had by no
means prepared me for what
I saw, nor the faintest conception
either of the magnificence
or the horror of the scene - or
this most bewildering some of
confounded us beholders.

I am not sure from what
point of view the writer in
question surveyed this awful
inexplicable Home & Haradan, nor
at what time but it neither
could have been from the top
of the immense desastion
nor from what is
left of the interior of this
appearance like shipwreck,
I here are some passages of
the newspaper description

" nevertheless which may be 4989
quoted for their details although
Radio ... then effect is exceedingly 5/12/69
feeble in conveying an impression
of this spectacle, there besides the
to future generations to pay off the principal while taxpayers
at now would be hit the highest interest rates on record.
thermore, there appears to be no requirement that the vast bond
be shall be underwritten on a competitive basis.

It seems clear to us that what is needed urgently in the
legislature is a much closer examination of the Governor's highway

proposals. Badly twisted steel and iron
frame work, little of which was
left fragments of which had fallen
on and still covered the ground
some distance away we came upon
what ever left of the alter
part of the chapel evidently in some
way the work of the maraudable
phlegethon of the skies.

Ascending the last step of the
ladder to the edge of what is left
of a jagged wall behind what is
left of the Chapel signs of the
great disaster grew in number and
intensity Down below in the play-
ground great fallen trees thrown
every which way with branches
entwined by all kind kinds
of household goods goods and
turn up by their root either
lay all around or roots stuck
high in the air and
what is left of the

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4900 upper parts of this immense building wore the look of having been mortally writhed by some most unmeasurably fierce and baleful blast of some immense explosion of thousands of tons of dynamite instead of a most terrific wind.

A few minutes further and we had gained the crest of the ruins and now for the first time I looked forth upon the sight we had come to see - I hardly know which to pronounce the more astonishing the prospect that now opened before our eyes or the suddenness with which it burst upon us.

To the former no more fitting than that perhaps can be applied desolation of absolute unredeemed so forlorn and intense so sad that deeps of bewildering adequate adequately in delirium such a long wide strongly built Convent.

How could it happen? On our right a little above us near the displaced alter rose the incurred real what was a casemate before had been eight days most magnificent and

fantastic chapel the 4901 Radio ... 2 world had ever seen 5/15/69 now a ragged almost sheer total ruin, all the rest of the upper part convicted felons, mental incompetents, and others who have no business owning weapons. For that reason alone the law should be hained.

This repeal bill still has to go through the Senate. Although House members have been foolish in the extreme, it does not in the Senate will be. We hope that the Senate leaders resist Illinois gun lobby. We hope that they bring common sense to bear. We hope they throw out the gun repeal bill.

of the Convent had been blown away and either scattered over the face of the country to the four winds before it or into oblivion in a roughly fan shaped deposit of for the most part of unknown type of complete disappearance had enough undred however to erase every section of this part of the building and conceal every feature of the denuded area of the immense structure.

What was left of the steel frame work and systematic water piping was twisted like pinwheels at the foot of the almost raging wall clouds of steam suffocating steam rose ceaselessly from a broken steampipe and

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4902 probably coming from some still steam heated boiler in the basement and now angering us with some hellish odor.

To our eyes the base of the wall denuded of all its wall plaster and smaller steel framework by the explosion of kinetic wind seemed to cover a space around the main Alter between eight or ten feet, and appeared to be four feet thick, this however can only be rough conjecture. Equally vague must be all present attempts to determine the volume of blown away material.

yet if we assume as a very moderate conjecture and calculation that the mean amount of debris taken off from all this long part as well as the wide section of upper three stories is not less than two hundred foot length we find that the work achieved by this great phlegeton armagedon of natures wind firing was the up and wide disappearing of no fewer than 70000 tons of debris from the upper part, and other ponderous material of its immensity roof for instance.

The real figure is probably very much greater, the awful

desolation of the structure 4903 beyond the Alter section and the mighty mass blown away by this "volcanic" tornado which was scattered onto the four winds were almost incredible. To our what is left of the sloping floor of the Chapel, and across the center of the town up floor boards (all the pews are gone) choking up that part and stretching beyond it to where the windows with the beautiful pictures stained glass

AGENDA OF MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

BY THE

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION

AT ITS MEETING TO BE HELD

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1969, at 10:00 A.M.

IN COMMITTEE ROOM 201-A, CITY HALL.

of the east while smoldering Chapel flooring. It is believed some of this debris came from the leveled buildings across the street.

Here and there the eyes rested on huge disorded heaps of all sorts of debris in the distant part of the Chapel flooring resembling nothing wooden modern weak curios to see on the further sides the sharp line of demarkation between the floor

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4904 and four feet of a remaining wall on which it had encroached again the part where the giant crucifix had been fastened and now thrown down by the massive wind so suddenly coming on and hurling a monstrous sheet of wreckage through the air thrown right across the floor.

Neither living thing nor any sign of life could be discerned over the whole expanse of ruin, all was normally silent and solitary all in the building except a man and child had been overtaken by swift death, swept to only God knows where they eventually lost their lives in a manner which shows the extraordinary speed with which the wind blew.

They had been overwhelmed in a fate more horrible and sudden than that of Pharaoh and his host. None escaped but Sister Mary Clare and nine year old Mildred Maxwell.

There are some that really believe that the twister drew up and absorbed and then flung all of the upper parts of the convents and everyone there with no high into the air and dissipated so far away

4905

ELECTIONS

HOUSE BILLS 610 thru 615

A series of Bills dealing with electronic voting machines: authorizes machines to be displayed for purpose of instruction; also requires ballot label booklet have designations of political parties for straight voting; also provides for specimen ballots for electronic machines.

February 26: 1st reading.

HOUSE BILL 730

Requires a primary candidate to have voted in at least one primary of his party within the 4 years preceding the date for filing his petition. Makes exceptions for first-time voters in this State and for first 2 primaries of new parties.

that many of the fallen fragments and inmates struck the ground with such velocity as to be buried far out of sight. Great amount of digging was done in such localities but they found nothing.

Though we were standing on the ragged edge of what is left of the 1 acre Heart Convent after more than three quarters of it including of course the roof we could guess the mighty force of the wind that literally blew all this away and spread it indescribably over the face of the sky. It is stated by some witnesses in the houses near by that escaped the twister that when hit it seemed the convent went to pieces like

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4906 like from fifteen to twenty explosions within that many seconds. What had been left of the convent building looks as if it had been truncated its whole width and length and at an acute angle to its axis. From our very feet near the displaced altar a precipitous wreckage slope of the chapel floor falls away for the full length of the long building till it reaches the level of the first floor where the front of the Chapel was.

At our right still below us rises a stone wall incased in what is left of the steel framework bent like penance fifty feet long and appearing very shaky. This is story,

It also is sloping down to the level and before it was of the Chapel floor. It is very dangerous to navigate this. Before straight five hundred feet in a nearly as far and on each side splintered debris in a sea of other buildings thrown there by the savage gale.

On reaching the floor a little beyond the altar in the it sanctuary room we found to resemble the appearance

the appearance of a 4907 gigantic ship wreck. To the top of the convent it was like the results of a hundred steam boilers exploding at one time. The whole top of the convent had been blown into nothing or projected into the air with such vast rapidity as to vanish out of sight.

The velocity of the tornadoes equal of 17,000 feet a second as stated may perhaps be very greatly overestimated but in its awful suddenness the catastrophe was one evidently with no equals.

The tops of the immense structure destroyed may have been largely reduced to oblivion by the extreme force of the storm which was almost instantaneously converted disappearing dust. The strength of the wind must have been enormous.

I think we all screamed at sight. I knew we all wept but we were speechless for a new horror and terror had been added to this earth. It is the most wretched of wonderful but terrifying things. The words of common speech are quite useless.

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Lornadoes was

4908 It is unimaginable most
undescribable a sight to
remember forever a sight which
at once took possession of
every faculty of sense and soul
removing one altogether out of
the range of ordinary life.

There was a real devastation
that no one could believe a
tornado of the toughest kind could
ever do. A big building like
this..

Most tornadoes in ordinary
cases would have ultimately
rose back into the cloud and
died away with no marked
change other than perhaps
like devastating a few farms
or a town or two.

But such was not now
the case. The sequel was at
once unexpected and most
terrible. As it grew so dark very
few actually saw what happened
or took place there nearest
to the scene of the convent
having enough to do to
save their own lives while
the dense clouds of flying debris
baffled observation.

The phase of greatest violence



MCUTCHEON
43RD WARD
N PARK WEST, 60614
EASTGATE 7-3884

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO

COUNCIL CHAMBER
SECOND FLOOR, CITY HALL

TELEPHONE: 744-6800

4910

met in when three quarters of
a minute had passed and
it is stated that at that sailors
on river ships saw that the
upper sections of the convent had
vanished in a dense cloud of some-
thing like a black shroud the
height of which was hidden in
the blackness of the sky far above
the storm.

At the time frightful noises
was heard and resounded and after
a time a rain of debris began to
fall at places ten miles distant all
over the cloud above the savage shroud
fierce flashes of unusually severe
lightning rent the clouds and shot
from the very shroud and it is said
at a distance of forty miles
ghostly coruscants gleamed from church
steeples all iron materials and
fences domes and all tree tops
and rail fences.

These phenomena grew more
and more startling and intense when
winds of the most fearful intensity
shook earth sky and river the last
wors of the storm around the Convent
being far the most violent and

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4911 and
and productive of the most
widespread results. It was in
fact the most tremendous tornado
ever known in its intensity known
in human history to do what did
also the powerfully built Gleason
Asylum, and still stronger built
Angel Guardian Orphanage.

It seemed or did over come
the obstruction to the very energy
of the internal forces of the very
atmosphere and under the ground to
do this.

The onward progress
of "Sweetie Pie" till its
slams at the Sacred
Heart Convent, and its
unbelievable results.

Until this year of 1913 came no
one had ever seen or heard of
a tornado in this region although
it was credited as being the most
dangerous cyclone "alley" in all of
Central U.S.A. They were unknown
way before Chesterbrown was a
village of a few houses as are
scores of other gems of glorious
towns or cities set in the
state of Illinois the worst territory

for tornadoes. We do not remember
for sure when this great Sacred
Heart Convent came into existence
but the tourists from all of the
country occasionally would visit
the building and its magnificent
grounds, while they roamed through
the magnificent halls and rooms
and many people sent their high
paid for children there as a classy
boarding school.

Children of Chesterbrown also attended
classes there during the school
term. Lucky they were not in the
building at the time of this
awful calamity. Chesterbrown would
have no chit population at all.

The Convent was known to
all outsiders who visited it and
the Sisters for it was marked
on business charts as the most
magnificent and strongest build-
ing in the world.

Though there is no proof
it was recorded no doubt that
this locality of mid northern
Illinois had had once or more
than once the scene of the
passage of an active-tornado.
In fact some great stretch
of country side and farmlands
had once in 1846 been torn up

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Tornadoes was

4913 by some frightful tornado
of by gone days at a time
when no towns or villages ex-
isted in this locality, but since
until August 15th 1913 there had
been no fresh outbreak, it almost
seemed that this tornado might
be regarded as if being formed
in the Netherlands and thrown
upon all of this part of Illinois and
especially the Convent.

In this respect it would
only be like many other similar
horrors of Hell meant the ruin and
devastate all the best handwork
of God, all over the main Christ-
ian part of Illinois,

as the howling yelling and
screching phlegm got through
upping out north west Johnson town
and advanced its vigor which had
spurred into mortuosity at the begin-
ning of its "belly buster" steadily
increased and the more became
more and more vehement as
it struck and obliterated north
to northeastern Gleason city.

This sound as it wiped out
the Gleason Orphanage before
you "can say Tom Sawyer
were presently audible ten
miles distant and then

SENATE BILL 7.1
continued

4914
many miles distant and then as it headed for

Appeal Board in the Department of Revenue, to the Department of Local Government Affairs. Provides for certification of community organizations and authorizes contractors to provide services. Makes other changes. Repeals certain sections and recreates functions in Department of Local Government Affairs.

So Papple and sidersurped it, but doing still greater damage and causing a funeral loss and killing more people than the one did at Omaha there noises waxed louder and louder until the great howl and thundersous hum of this "Sweetie Pie" (what a beautiful name for this tornado) now so rapidly developing astoreshed the inhabitants that dwelt over an area of this part of the country as large as Great Britain.

And there were other symptoms of the approaching catastrophe. With its onward progress a quantity of debris from the devastated towns and landscapes was projected and sucked into or aloft into the clouds.

The whirling winds could not get rid of all this as rapidly as it was finally hurled outward or upward too by the tornado and according the atmosphere above the main cloud became heavily charged with suspended debris of all kinds. Such was the thickness

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4915 and the density of those atmospheric volumes of tornado debris and dust that for many miles around debris came down upon towns cities and farms like rain. Then the awful tragedy of the tornado took place. What an awful disgrace for it.

Many hundreds of the unfortunate inhabitants of the adjacent countryside and Burgham and Helena village were destined never to behold the next day or the sun again.

They were presently swept away to destruction by an invasion of the towns by the most tremendous unmeasurable wind storm the world ever beheld with which the wildest squalls surrounding "Sweetie Pie" (there she comes again sweet name) were so terribly agitated ("Gosh from now on give her plenty of room")

As it strucked on towards Chester Brown the sparrow of the平原 waxed more and more vehement. By the time it violently exploded into southwestern Chester Brown the panic elsewhere was widespread for the supreme catastrophe was at hand. On that awful late afternoon of Sunday of the Assumption of the B.V.M. August 15 1913 the blackness

4916
of the tornadoic storm clouds now much thicker than ever was only occasionally illuminated by lurid flashes of lightning. At the city of Chicago probably ninety miles distance there for a time no quiet that afternoon. The houses trembled which was thought to be subterranean mysterious violence and the windows rattled as if heavy artillery were being discharged in the streets or at their very doors.

And still these efforts seemed to be only a rehearsal for the coming of the supreme display.

By the time it neared where the Sacred Heart Convent was the rehearsals came to an end and then came the performance.

It gave forth an overture as it crashed into Convent Territory of two or three introductory explosive wind force which was succeeded by a frightful abyssal atmospheric convulsion which tore away all the upper parts of the great Convent within thirty seconds and scattered it with every one in unto the winds of heaven. In that final outburst all records of violent windstorms on this earth was shattered.

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a whirling on the belly cloud round was as eruptions as the rolling on the winds cataclysm the annihilation and the uprising ois paradise in the full field. Omaha fled for it only he west side contours of was there is of ground grounds are earth and no town and were wiped instant was to the first storm after Western Gleason Lomax was

4917 This supreme effort it was which produced the most mightiest noise that so far as we can ascertain has ever been heard for or from any tornado. It must have been a very loud pandemonium of sounds which could travel from that part of Chesterhoun to Bloomington south and Chicago north and preserve its vehemence over so great a distance that we should form a very very inadequate conception of the energy of the raging tornado if

AGENDA OF MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED
BY THE
COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION
AT ITS MEETING TO BE HELD
FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1969, at 2:00 P.M.,
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 201-A, CITY HALL.

We thought its inexplicable or inexorable sounds were heard by people in towns merely a hundred miles away like Bloomington or ninety miles like at Chicago. This would be little indeed compared with what was recorded on testimony of people who to doubt is absolutely impossible.

I went west from Chesterhoun stretches the distance to Springfield, Alton, St Louis and Lemoore.

Across the Mississippi River westward lies West St Louis the distance being almost three hundred miles.

It has been proved 4819 by evidence which under no conditions can ever be doubted that the pandemonium roar of the great tornado attracted the attention of nearly every one in Cairo and St Louis and east St Louis also who carefully noted the character of the sounds and the time of their occurrence. They had

They had heard them just in half an hour after the actual uproar for this is the time the sound occupied on its journey.

The "eruption" of this unlimited armageddon of the winds spread the most ruin and death from the Gleason Asylum to the Convent and created the inexplicable horror of both the Convent, Angel Guardian Asylum and the supermarket. It was indeed a murderous wholesale killer of children.

They were wiped out totally there three but one third of the Convent still remained looking like a big shipwreck in shape.

At the convent as we saw it everything was found to be changed. I believe about two thirds of the Convent was left the rest of it being blown completely away into nothingness.

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in a whirling from the belly child cloud? grounds was descriptions as the winding on the roads start of the annihilation and the uprising mois paradise in the full wild. Omaha called for it only the west side e. contour of was there is of ground grounds are the earth and town and were wiped instant was to the first storm after Western Gleason. Tornadoes were

4919 with all its inmates.
The marginal rear where
the alter is was cut nearly
in half vertically what is
left of the wall falling
precipitously or having fallen
toward the center of the
abject ruin. Where flooring
had been before now sham-
bles existed.

But some parts of the
building that had remained
had been somewhat added or
increased in size by debris
flung from other wrecked
houses.

Of its immense long most
strong slanting roof iron
framework and all, all of
it too had disappeared, some
of the remaining four foot
walls were partially destroyed
some were covered with
debris from other houses while
many changes had taken
place in its park like
ground and of the neighbor-
ing streets.

The famous colored faint
sun terraces were gone to
ruin only two thirds of
them remaining. The
magnitude of the force of
this "Sweetie Bee" must

4920 enormous beyond all conception.
The immeasurable fury of this tornado
tornado seems to have been due
to some deep lying causes of most
extraordinary violence, this appearing
not only in its terrible explosive
force which tore every city and
town to pieces or fragments includ-
ing the winging out of the important
buildings already mentioned with
the annihilation of so many kids
and sent their remnants and the
inmates into nothingness many
miles high in the sky but also
from an internal most violent
convulsion that affected many of the
storms of the whole Country well
which almost simultaneously broke
out the most violent of thunderstorms
on all record.

We extract from Doctor Kerney
Caldwell "Our earth and its story
of violent storms" a description of
these closely related events.

"The disturbance is claimed to
have originated between two great
thunderstorms, and had winds from
the "belly buster" of the most
extreme violence.

"Sweetie Bee" for its full long
path thus surpassed Mt Pelee
in its tale of destruction if not in
loss of life. These two indeed

of 921 have been the most destructive to life of known volcanic explosions and tornado horror in its murderous results. The distant effects of this "Sweetie Pie" explosion of inexorable wind force were as remarkable as both volcano and地震 combined.

The awful concussion of uproar caused by its tremendous distance reached to an unprecedented height and the clouds of debris fell every where for a great distance out of the sky.

The rapidly with which the effects of the Sweetie Pie pathosm atmospheric phlegmon made itself felt and evident in all parts of the central United States or perhaps the most remarkable outcome of this most extraordinary event.

The falling debris came down as far as Davenport and Rock Island, Galena and even Bloomington.

Immense showers of debris of all kinds and of a similar description and believed to have been derived from the same source fell in south Chicago and Gary Indiana. In some places it fell so thickly as to do damage to roofs and wooden

houses. Another result of the storm was the series of most strange series of atmospheric waves caused by the disturbance in the atmosphere which affected the barometer over the entire country and in Canada even. Some state the velocity of the winds of "Sweetie Pie" that raged has been variously estimated at from 912 feet to 1066 feet a second. Yet it may be exaggerated. Had this "Sweetie Pie" been tornado force and hit the big city of Chicago, there would be no more Chicago.

Six days subsequent to the roar of the twister after the atmospheric waves had traveled ten times around the country the barometer was still affected by them.

The mighty incident of the tornado horror has taught us many lessons, most mighty atmospheric convulsion, we previously knew little or might say almost nothing as to the conditions of the causing of this awful phlegmon, paralleling from the extraordinary belly block buster above the woodland upon which it fell and wiped out,

7923 It was "Sweetie Pie" which first gave us a little information which was greatly wanted on it's the strength of such unprecedented storms. How could we learn at what rate the winds of this homodal haridan was blowing estimated at height of force more than a dozen of the strongest hurricanes at one in this one total spot

No doubt a straw will show which way the winds blow, but all straws were blown every which way in the path of this most savage twister.

There was nothing to render the wild force of this wind perceptible until it was seen what it did to the orphanage Convent, and the supermarket and St Vincenti Church and the St Dennis building. "Sweetie Pie" drove into those building such with such prodigious force as to even overwhelm the force of the death could from Mt Pelee. But had the tornado rich gases, heat and flame there "would have no rummors either at Chesterloun. But it was unusable wind without fiery heat & deadly gas.

With eyes full of astonishment many witnessed that vast "Sweetie Pie" on its Brennanross most devastating journey. Of course every one knows the terrific force of tornados which in from three to five minutes can make a sad ramble of any towns struck by them and which are of such a deadly menance to be called the terror of the skies and of the land.

But there is just another most terrific wind, It was first disclosed by sweetie pie. At the occurrence of that 'eruption' from the sky no one had the slightest suspicion that it was going to be a mile and three quarters tempest with a speed of hurrying with a speed ten times greater than that of the awful hurricane which once laid so large a part of Calcutta on the ground and slew so many of its inhabitants.

In fact had that hurricane been as strong as this maelstrom of the air Calcutta would be a thing of the past and all its people no more.

Fortunately for humanity this tornado was not that wind and with its same force we were

4925 thus preserved from the fearful destruction that its blasts would have produced if it had been two hundred miles across with the same speed of whirl and suction power of such a Tornado blasts against which no landscape could withstand, and which in that storm's duration would sweep a whole big city out of existence.

It is claimed that far up aloft twenty miles over our heads a mighty tempest is incessantly hurrying with a speed much greater than that of the awful typhoons that have good parts of Calcutta away by wind and waves and slew more than two quarters of its population.

Yet I do believe our "Sweetie Red pie" blew three times stronger than this tradewind which it is said to be twenty miles above us. When this great wind had accomplished what it did with these most important buildings already mentioned then for the first time in history and I may add for the first time it stood to human vision that the strongest buildings in the world had become nothing of the past.

) how it was seen that this 4926 wind had a force that even the most terrific eruption like even mighty Krakatoa could not match. The debris manufactured by the supreme and unsurpassable convulsion of the storm was whirled far and around and away from the center flung outward by this mighty incomparable atmospheric disturbance from which the kinetic center discharged it all. I also read here from Simon Segree who also witnessed the disaster from his residence:

"I noticed that some peculiar storm was coming in a form of which I thought was a vast shroud of rain thought I could not make out at that time what was making such a deafening pandemonium of noise.

Then I saw a part of the Sacred Heart Convent open out with a terrible explosion and at the same time a windmill structure wrapped itself around my big barn.

A wall of strange rushing cloud acting like a big and frenzied whirlpool swept through the street a block north of us wt. with a crashing noise that I believe St Michael the Archangel could not describe. After that I had to have my ears reconstituted by a ear doctor. The convent like from a tidal

4927 wave of immense size was struck "broadside" by an immense unseen force then came a sound as if a whole mountain was becoming Krakatoa. The upper parts of the convent first appeared to be being into pieces and then vanishing dust and thin air, there was no warning even there was part was ripped out and hurled straight towards the Angel Guardian Orphane an apparent solid wall of enveloping cloud, the destruction there sounded like many thousands of cannon.

At the same time there was a tumult of pandemonium of sounds. The wall of wind enveloped every thing like a hurricane of wind out of hell, from west to east the orphane went away on a crazy frenzied conglomeration of flying wreckage. The shroud straight through the immense angel guardian everything vanished property. Eyes and the before our flying debris like a big blizzard thick fortunately we were not in the of it.

That awful blast of wind to my turning lasted a minute

and thirty five seconds. 4928
Radio ... 2 Before the terrific explosion 5/1/69 all the inmates of the Convent were

In roulette. There's a deadly bullet in the gun which we pointed at our heads. And one of these days that gun is going to fire. It will be purely academic at that point whether I wanted it or not.

We hope that the state senate reconsiders Joint Resolution It certainly should not be passed. But if it is passed, then I hope that Secretary Hickel will give the resolution the treatment it deserves--by throwing it out.

* * * Having a grand banquet on one of the upper floors. After the explosion squall all was gone and not one living child or employee or sister were seen again. The survivors Sister Mary Clare and the child are my barn made hospital.

I witnessed the destruction of the Convent and the Asylum. The furious tempest enveloped them in every quarter with such rapidity that it was impossible that any person could escape. Then the day was being suddenly turned into night but I could distinguish by the light of the strange tornado fireballs what was happening all this time the shroud was roaring and shaking so loudly that I could not hear

4929 The cries of despair and agony adding to the terror of the scenes from the thousands of children who were perishing, it was impossible to describe its horror or the dreadful sensations it produced. It was like uttering the end of the world for little children.

It was a fact that in every great disaster the most victims are little children. The outlines of what is left of the convent is not recognizable. All the familiar topography of the whole length of the building is altered as I saw the next day. I knew about the windmill iron framework wrapped around my barn, but just now my whole attention was on the ruins of the convent and the oblivion of the orphanage.

The people in the neighborhood of the Gleason Asylum did have the same opinion as the superintendent. No one expected that the grand old contour beyond southwestward would ever allow a winter or any violent windstorms to rage across it and even spout forth wiping out life and death. I myself did not think so either.

This was entirely unlooked for. And also it appeared as

as if neither formed or 4930 earthquake could one third way wreck so strong and immense a building. The contour of the ground, (contour, very low hills) was regarded by all Gleason city people as a sort of protection or even superstitious affection for those grounds especially because of the magnificent and most beautiful scenery.

There was no pleasanter outing for an afternoon for the Gleason Orphanage children than a short gurney to those green velvet like very long sloping grounds for a picnic and a view of the distant quaint picturesquely slumbering only a few miles away.

The beautiful Illinois River ran westward through there and three railroad lines, the Rock Island, the Santa Fe and I believe the Burlington. The territory was peace itself. There were many beautiful trees. ("They're not there now") These lands seemed to promise perpetual protection.

The orphans really did rely upon it to keep back violent windstorms from their great orphan

4931 home and from the contour lands itself and frightens away the tempestuous blizzards by northeasters from the big old Lake Michigan. They pointed to it with profoundest pride as one of the most beautiful spots in the world.

Children played in its bower and arbors families and even all the orphan children pattered day by day during the balmy summer and even fall weather, and enjoyed winter sports there, hundreds of tourists came and looked with great pleasure at the beautiful Heaven like scenery. and the also beautiful wide river where they would go for a ride on the ships and the beautiful crystal Illinois Lake which sparkled and glinted in the sunshine. Rich people had magnificent homesteads.

These contour of grounds was the place of enjoyment for many of the people of even Rock Island and Davenport if not also Moline and LaSalle. I have heard the places

4932 employs and even the superintendant and other persons of high rank "Oh the contour of the grounds is our protector, it won't let any old destroyer come near us."

"As we really all know, the only thing that can stop a tornado is a 'high' and none of them appear anywhere when there is a tornado. And then it's badly needed. A high can mostly come around to cut off from us what is usually badly needed and that is rain for our farms. But come and turn off its path a twister in halt it altogether no. As terrible as it was in its unbelievably results and horrors this tornado presented a spectacle of unexampled grandeur.

To travelers and strangers the greatest resultant loss to the whole world will be the destruction of those world famous curiosities the white funk and other terraces of the convents most famous of burntan the world has ever seen. What do you say about them in danger?"

"Well" I answered I have actually seen them, they cost \$10,000,000 to construct. They were made of the most expensive marble of various

4933 colors some two to six feet
high, fourty feet around on top
and the last lower three more
than a hundred. It was hewn from
white pink and other colors of the
most expensive marble ever obtained.

Did you see it?

"Did?" exclaimed Segree. "Each
of the basins contained very clear
water sprayed from the monstrous
magnificent fountain which hurled
the water in fine spray fifty
feet in the air. The kids climbed
the terraces during hot weather
to receive the cooling spray.

These five terraces covered an
area of about two hundred
and fifty feet and in summer
when the spray was on looked
like a series of cataracts each
being of the five terraces
fringed with manufactured
festoon of strong yet delicate
appearing stalactites.

To my idea there were no
more beautiful products of
manufacture upon the earth than
these pink white, beautiful green
yellow purple and red terraces
as they were called. They in
all were twenty five feet to
the top. Even by the Sisters
and children of the Convent.

4934 the options were allowed their share
of the spray, but grownups from
the outside "keep out".
The hot springs of the yellow
and pink and white terraces
of Sake Roto Mahana New Zealand
have produced formations
resembling them but not their
equal in fancy like charm though
formed by nature.

The upper one of these so termed
fountain made pools and cascades
was of the most purest white
thirty feet in circumference the second
lowest of the most delicate pink
the water topping over the edge of
each pool and falling in a
miniature cascade to the one next
below thus keeping the edges
in shape as long as the big
fountain was on.

At winter it was shut off.
But all their most splendid
beauty or immensely strong construct-
ion and size could not save
them from utter and most irre-
versible destruction by the force
of this most powerful belly
bursting "Sweetie Pie." It didn't leave
the water system pipes in the
ground even. These beautiful
terraces are no more Sweetie Pie

4935 surely did her work well. But how could it do it. Even the ground on which she stood were torn up eight feet deep. All the biggest trees were terribly destroyed or carried away and the whole face of the play ground was completely and bodily altered.

And I believe as I had seen some of the unusual splendor myself this tornado was remarkable for the strange excessive electric phenomena which it produced in the atmosphere, and also of the upper and lower section where the strange fireballs remained as far as the twister traveled and the lower one made the wind so hot as to almost scorch everything in its path and which are supposed to have been of electrical origin and due to the high state of electric tension in the atmosphere at that time.

Violent thunderstorms of very long duration with too much rain hail and violent squalls were said to be frequent accompaniments of this tornado every where east of the Rockies

4936 rocky Mountains but owing to the influence of "Sweetie Pie" their condensation was so sudden and violent and such rains and quantities were developed that it was a wonder that another great Mayton Ohio flood didn't occur.

In all Central parts of the United States thunderstorms accompanied by the most lurid and vivid lightnings were the results and cloudburst of rain added to dangers of inundations and overflows of rivers.

Remember the number of storms here that followed this horridan.

The La Salle news mentions on its very front page that during the time this twister was hitting the Convent and inspiring out the Angel Guardian Orphange the lightning from the very tornado cloud killed thirty six cows on two farms, eleven horses and three farmers.

The strangest fact about this tornado was that though it obliterated most of the upper section of the Convent it did not destroy the sanctuary part where was and still is that magnificent alter after just as much exposed as all the rest of the structure to its full force. It is believed that the

4937 the framework of the walls of that part of the chapel which is north must have become so jarrmed and consolidated by the action of the fierce wind in the few seconds of duration that it could not be pulled apart even by a wind force the vastness of which may be guessed at from the vastness of the area of the rest of that part of the old convent it swept out of existence.

So when this eruptive wind had passed on to the northeast it was found that the northern part of the chapel incredible as it may seem remained as if undisturbed so far as has been ascertained but close to it and separated only by a knife edge of wall some twenty feet in height and so narrow that as it was assured by one who had seen it it is dangerous to crawl along the leaning after a part blasted out but just the same still standing.

But it is shaky yet this seemed a miracle. I regretted much that I could not visit it. I'm afraid its too dangerous. The destruction of the

4938 two aphanges. the convent, Dennis Building and Supermarket are the most spectacular and immeasurable catastrophes that has ever passed into the History of the world on tornadoes. Almost at our very doors in that beautiful Chesterbrown city and country side where rests a line of smiling cities and towns bathed in summer sunlight, disaster worse than even even the horrors of St. Pierre from Mt. Pelee destruction, unparalleled have ruled of terrible windy Sweetie Pie.

Sweetie Pie? Ha. Who invented that name for this most vicious twister a Philanthropist almost not of this world. Why would it happen that those buildings and cities have to be on relentless unsurpassable path? Who named that inexplicable, inexorable, tornado that?

The Weather department all over the country one of the committee at the meeting answered,

The department of Weather Bureau? What the matter with them no cyclone deserves a name like that. Why did not the earth open to pour its relentless fires upon helpless humanity? Could the St. Pierre catastrophe match this Sweetie Pie Calamity?

4939 The terrible volcanic disaster which overwhelmed Martinique and Vincent the most peaceful islands of the Caribbean May 8 1902 and destroyed 50,000 lives in an instant had about it certain unique features that justify special attention beyond cataclysms of nature but can not match this tornado cataclysm with its immeasurable destruction and unmeasured loss of life?

And especially children? We all know? suppose that however stupendous and shocking the great catastrophes of the past may have ever been they really came at a time when our world was very extensive and wide before the telegraph the submarine cable and the railway and also telephone existed to bring the news through before the printing press and newspapers and books magazines had been invented to spread it abroad before the cameras had been made ready to depict with perfect truth the very scenes of destruction themselves,

how at the beginning of the twentieth century comes a convulsion of the atmosphere most inconceivably tremendous almost at our very doors with all these reliable agencies of modern progress at hand for recording and preserving every graphic detail and news too.

But still the news of this disaster was not flashed for any type throughout the country or world and not yet except to some of the south, "Sweetie Pie" saw to that not only did she saw to that but also never ships laden with food clothing shelter and money given out of the fullness of sympathetic sorrow which was hastened to the scene of the suffering couldnt get anywhere near the scene of devastation because of the awful destruction of all railroad and other communications plain dirt and asphalt roads and so many bridges north west and east,

While they were giving people wanted to know the whole truth of what had happened but so widespread was the destroyed communications that they could not

4941 get any news. It is said those famous rangers children have not received any news, they can't get to Chesterhoun and tell the two Rooney children among them are worried bad about their mother who is prostrated in believing they had perished in the concert disaster.

So near to us was the great tornado so tremendous its effects so widespread the simultaneous results and the strange seismic disturbances caused by its vibration and uproar throughout its course that no one dared ignore them.

What part of this country, or even what country would be the next to be strucken, was this the beginning of a series of catastrophes throughout the United States and the whole (world) world, What was the causes the real causes of such catastrophies such wild cataclysm of the atmosphere and could they not be foretold, or escaped. No tornado Armageddon can be averted, but there should be some fair warning on time. There was of this one but the people wouldn't take heed.

There were the natural 4942 questions rising in every mind, what made the tornado so awfully and inexplicably strong?

One of the most remarkable features of the whole disaster was the great "unusual changes it made of the contour of the grounds a mile or so away from the Gleason Asylum, it tore away completely the upper parts of the low rises of ground striping it bare of all trees and farm lands and scattered the ground debris all over the territory.

In some places five feet of upper rises of ground were scattered to the far winds, and the ground contour was altered to such an extent as to be unrecognizable. Four hundred people who lived in towns and farms on this contour were killed and injured many of the injured to be laid up for life.

The changes in the contour were not confined to the immediate center of the contour but extended as far as Johnston town and Perryburg, and the contour was supposed to stop the

7943 tornado or burn it aside,
but god wiped out shelf.
The country aroused to an
outpouring of sympathy never
excelled, gathered as said before
river ships and boats
messengers of pity on my money
food clothing and means of
healing to hasten to the
stricken cities for the salvation
of those who had survived.
But no relief expeditions
could hardly get there because
of destroyed communications of every
sort of right of way.

If they could do so to
convey the whole of the desolation
the suffering and the grief
no words are adequate but they
saw it not. And yet let those
be glad and thankful to God
who do not have to bear
in their memory the terrors
and floods of tears that follow-
ed fast upon that vast and
most mighty cataclysm of
the storm. How powerless is
man to save when old Mother
nature loses her temper and
assails how feeble his boasted
strength and intellect against

4944

the stupendous natural forces
which sweep whole towns away
rend landscape to shreds rend
small hills in twain shake the
earth rock from its vibrations
shake the air with its most
tremendous concussion and be
heard over three hundred miles and
fling debris over a vast countryside
and upon towns and villages.

"Sweetie Pie" departing city after
city. Johnstown, what city in this
part of Northern Ill, indeed felt the
wild convulsions of the phlegmon
maelstrom of the atmosphere shuddering
under the pressure of its hearings
or bursting with the expansive
explosive force of the most awful
tremendous volumes of violent
winds struggling to find a way to
ripe out the northern part of the
state.

Poor Johnstown was the first to
feel the shock of disaster. The
storm tore through there as if it had
gone mad like a tiger with rabies.

Next Gleason was foughtfully
scorched by "Sweetie Pie" I must
have that word, in quick succession
came Howe Sa Ball Gleason
Asylum was where unknown hundreds

4945 were killed from Bunnbury becoming a dead city from Sogarberry to Chertesbrown scene of the most destructive wind convulsions in history of terrors where the storm burst forth in the most tremendous explosive wind force the world has ever known with a roar proved to be heard with a noise within a distance of more than 365 miles from Chester brown to Chester chire, most historic of all tornado fury whence found' forth the floods of still stronger winds that scattered the buildings like chaff then Jane ville which it erupted into the fury of our winds and thence clear across the rest of the country and then sped onward unto the sea,

Mankind stood aghast. Were the hidden atmosphere forces of great cyclones about to manifest themselves in a series of destructive assaults on other parts of the country? what would be the news from Moline, Davenport, Chicago right in the track of tornado disturbances, might be also

4946
convinced. But yet all this I believe cannot compare to the disasters of the asylums Convent Dennis building and the super-market blazoned before a most terrified nation, and world the crash of the greatest disaster of the age which burst with the most appalling threat upon the very nations.

Suddenly out of that bursting child clouds belly came the shock of the most fierce and savage tornado ever I know, the destruction of five cities and villages, the wiping out of orphanage Convent and other structures crowded with children, the death in horror a noble torture of thousands thousands of hapless children the heart rending grief of multitudes mourning their lost ones the wail of thousands of injured crying and pleading for succor and aid.

Yet the orphans and Convent horror is a calamity and spectacle of terror never to be obliterated from the memory of those survivors who saw it or those who hastened to the relief of the suffering

4947 Strange atmospheric conditions and unusual actions of parts of the river on August 13th to 15th were noticed by many farmers and the inhabitants of the cities which caused them to fear that some terrible calamity was pending but they took no heed.

So this most appalling catastrophe which took the lives of so many children from the Glendale Asylum to the big supermarket resulting in the destruction of five immense buildings and nearly uncounted child lives has not only horrified every part of the Christian world but it is still horrifying.

The heart of humanity shudders at every great calamity which results in the sudden death of thousands of people, but this massacre of so many children takes the record. The fear of a repeat of such an awful disaster many parents are withdrawing their children from summer convent and other schools.

It is said however that this terrible unsupposable

calamity that overwhelmed 4948 these five doomed buildings did not strike without warning. Its terrific bellow was a warning and its crazy transformations and its excruciating lightnings - Even though within more than eighteen minutes duration the whole length and width of Chesterlawn was turned into an unparalleled scene of desolation the horror of these fire buildings surpassed all.

Nobody in these five buildings escaped the horrible fate that swept a vast multitude of children to sudden death, and left the rest who were awfully injured to suffer something almost like the tortures of lost souls in Hell.

Nothing like this ever happened before.

"Sweetie Pie" the greatest and most violent tornado on all record exploded itself upon these buildings like the blast of the explosives going off at one time. We seen the huge trees of what was left of them the most huge trees ever planted anywhere. They were all torn up by their roots, and either laid flat, or standing up on their branches upside down a jarroned

4949 into each branches
(what's left of them) telescope fashion
with their root on each
end of the tree and not
lying down but standing upright
planted with its roots
with its roots on the other
and they're not where they had
been grown either.

Others were mixed banyan
tree fashion, all type of house-
hold goods were wedged
among the branches. There
in the world and stood at
least some of them a
hundred and thirty five feet
high.

There were other indications
here of the convent grounds
especially the wiped out terraces
that showed that this awful
wave of wind must have
passed over this section at
the extreme velocity as if
the sky itself had exploded
with the same force as it
did over Sodom and the other
cities except it was mighty
wind and not fire and
burnt one. Every one of
these buildings that were of

4950 most solid stone and iron frame
work were gone. Here were not
° great amount of debris in
the streets here because the storm
swept most away.

My first thoughts when I saw
this awful destruction was that it
was simply the history of Sodom
and Gomorrah repeated, but not by
fire but a great wind hurled
out of heaven.

The morals of the inhabitants
of Chester brown, the children of the
Asylum, Convent and everywhere
else in the city were very sanctly
if I don't exaggerate their good
morals.

Ungood women was impossible
among the people and they knew
how to bring up their children,
I cannot picture the goodness
and holy morality of the
children of the Convent and
orphanage vividly enough. and
the poor nuns and employees.
It had to be seen to be
understood. Why should this
happe.

The children and all the
others in these places were like
rats in a trap, and had no
way to turn. An counted number
of children swept out of existence.

4951 or sudden death. Beastly
awful buildings in thirty five
seconds uprooted out among the
children injured and others scenes of
that beggars description.
Our whole country and the
rest of the civilized world
horified by the appalling news
news of the greatest calamity
the world has ever seen or
heard of.

There had been many awful
disasters by flood and storm
in recent times but none to
equal this. The Johnston Calamity
was on a far less scale. The
dreadful Galveston hurricane and
flood did not result in an
eighth part of the loss of life
that visited these fine places
sewed crowded with hapless
children, whose whose doom
had been sealed by this
dire calamity. If He is so so
all good why did the Deian
God allow all this.

Indeed no such appalling
disaster distinguished by the
awful suddenness of the blow
the number of the child
victims the completeness of
the desolation of these buildings
has ever come to the
civilized world with such an

overwhelming and harrowing 4950
force. The destruction of
St Louis, Kansas City Omaha
and others put together cannot
be equaled by this great
tornado of modern times. The
marking explosive force and
more of this twister set in
motion air waves that traveled
around the country four times
one way and three times the
other and every self recording
barometer in the country was
disturbed seven times by that
twister. Aged awful vibration,
There was traveled it is written
at the rate of seven hundred
miles per hour.

Now in this part of Ill.
during our historic period no
convulsion of nature comparable to
this current event or catylysm
has occurred since Chester Brown
or these other cities had come
into existence.

Yet this entire lessonty is
considered a cyclone Alley. But
for all these years there has
been no violent windstorms
in this quarter of Illinois
and the present disastrous
disturbance is all the more appalling.

4953 because of its suddenness,
indeed the awful suddenness
of this overwhelming disaster to these most important buildings and all their inmates gives it the most pre-eminence among the greater wind or other catastrophes which we have record.

It impresses upon us all the transitoriness of man and the works of man.

The tremendous convulsion of the "Sweetie Pie" that produced the rising out with such marvelous softness windly recalls Shakespear's

"The great Globe itself
Yea all which it inhereth,
Shall yet dissolve"

"But yet this was not fire but a inexplicable, inexorable wind, The destruction of these buildings came without premonition or warning with such brief warning as to make escape impossible for everybody in these fine buildings." The earliest reports of great calamities of every kind are often exaggerated but in the present instance

it does not appear as 4954 yet that the first estimate of the loss of life has ever reached the right figure - yet nothing that appealed to human sympathy was lacking in the most appalling crisis. This is the most colossal tragedy that ever occurred, and has aroused the sympathy of the world, and efface national boundaries and nothing that affects humanity thus so grossly and lamentably can ever be foreign to us.

Now as any one knows danger hovers over the territory and also over the cities that lie in the regions which is called the cyclone regions of the earthquake or in the shadow of the volcano. But I believe the main danger is the tornado for it rushes for the hill while the earthquake is underground and the (volcanic) volcano.

Those who live in the cities of the dangerous territories must face the perils of an environment which is not easily changed. Local attachment is strong with most men that they will brave great perils.

4955 of climate terrific storms earthquakes tornado, and the mighty volcanos or of other dangerous situations rather than make a new home in a safer location.

It would be a say sycical observation to say that people who live in these regions should seek safer habitations for also there territories where tornadoes are mil.

We are told that on the long course or path of this wind armageddon large areas of all sorts of vegetation have been destroyed to an immeasurable amount, that many are in danger from perishing from want of food and decent water

and that famine is impending unless railroads communications are restored in time.

Great suffering is seen among the injured unless rail roads and other communications are restored in time hundreds are likely to perish for the timeliest succor can reach them. The American Government has taken steps to aid the disaster area by shipping goods by a round-about way.

So Salle, Moline and Davenport are full of refugees from the trail of the Hurst. Food was required at once the most urgent appeals have been sent to neighboring southern towns but they too cant get through the blockade.

Because of this famine now threatens to add its horrors to the situation every where in the storm's path. All survivors are still flocking into So Salle and all are still panic stricken.

Food cannot yet reach them and the supply depots are under military guard. Terrible suffering can only be averted by the early restoration of railway and communications.

Chester Brown street had ever served as a storehouse to this part of Illinois Reserve supplies were held there and with the complete destruction of that city starvation is to be coming an immediate menace, all the contour of ground surrounding So Salle is said to be covered with refugees still to the number of 5,000 In the meantime provisions still cannot easily be conveyed to them. The river is so wide it'll take weeks to even construct

4957 strong plank bridges,
as to the railroads it would
take more than two years if
they're financially well enough
to do so. Official despatches
claim the disaster far sur-
passes all that imagination
can conceive, you know as I
still say" continued him on Se-
gree "the various accounts of the
devastation of the Sacred Heart
Convent which it is said reached
Chicago from St Louis left only
a shadow of hope that the
later details would greatly
minimize the extent of the
catastrophe and the fear is be-
ginning to seize the Chicago
papers that even much worse
news would come,

For instance the Daily News
of Chicago in an editorial
said;

"It is only too clear that
the disaster to the Orphanages
Convent and other big build-
ings is larger than known
at first. But how in the
world could it be done to
such strong structures as
these? In the presence of
such unnatural forces man
and even angels are helpless
and we can only prepare

4958

to relieve all the sufferers and
survivors and all the people outside
of Chester brown waiting in vain for
reports of their loved ones in the
convent as speedily as it is possible
to get some kind of opening for
the communications." Then a
Chicago Tribune contained the
following:

"There are plans being matured
for a meeting in Salle
of all the members of the
smitten territories formed by
former surviving residents of
Gleason and Chesterbrown. It
is probable that the meeting
will be held Thursday evening
about why the strongest building
collapsed before the storm.

Yet final arrangements are
yet to be made as all weather
men and scientist on all
storms are mainly to attend.
Mr Henry Darger here himself
head of the Relief Committee
has been requested by other
Committee members to head the
meeting and to issue the
call for the meeting and to
take - preliminary charge. It
is believed that men from
all other cities will come to

4959 to La Salle to the meeting. It is also intended to take such steps as may be possible looking to relieve the crowds of anxious mourners who lost their children in the convent disaster caused by the explosion of the tornado suction tube and representatives will probably be sent to La Salle for the purpose of gathering exact information regarding the fate of those convent children.

still unspeakable anguish is resulting from the awful inability to obtain news from La Salle, concerning the Convent. Most of the children probably of the orphans had no parents, those of the Convent did, and it was no orphanage.

Without hope that the number of child victims has been overestimated there is ever the feeling that the apparently impossible has happened. The suspense has resulted in the frustration of many women and mothers and sisters, aunts and grandmothers whose children and relatives of the large convent school are believed to have been swept to the floor

wind by this mighty hand 4960
With the help of Mr Dargen supervising Mr Whillan Thomas Schoder and Mr James Thomas Phelan will be active in arranging for the meeting. Bernard Dunn will be the organizer, they were unceasing in their efforts so far to obtain from Chesterbrown news from their friends who in the untouched 31 building lived near the scene of the calamity, but were unsuccessful at this.

They their friends declared the storm was too dark to see what was happening. They are therefore convinced that it was impossible for any of those in the Convent and the Angel Guardian Orphanage to have escaped as the storm was so sudden.

Neither do they understand how such unmeasurably strong buildings could be totally destroyed and so suddenly. What indeed was the strength of the wind. Even about the great Gleason Asylum, made mysterious by their knowledge of the land & in front of this famous Asylum they believe that the countour of the land was also overcome by the fate

4961, that befell the Gleason Asylum. At the grand meeting there's hope for full success. All our relatives and friends had children being schooled and roomed and board-ed in the Sacred Heart Convent, and it is hard to rob ourselves of the only hope that is left for us.

Still it is useless to take to ourselves what reason and common sense teaches is a delusion. If read the saying "the bigger and stronger the building the worse it will get it" If the mighty Convent has been destroyed, and its upper parts with its occupants swept away to the four winds and all disappear into nothingness as it has been described, by the dispatches then there remains nothing to hope no hope to recover.

The Convent must have been obliterated by the same explosive blast of wind that shrivelled the Angel Guardian of the Orphanage. The Orphanage a branch across the street from it to west almost under

the main section of 4962 its territory, and if the lower part of the funnel has blown like a volcanic explosion destruction must have occurred as if they were made of tissue paper.

As to the Gleason Asylum horror, it is really remarkable and a very unusual event.

Between the Gleason Asylum, and the city by that name there is a break in the ground, and long but low rises of ground and the stream between, but the terrible storm which swept through obliterating it would have first reached the main higher grounds before rushing up to the Asylum.

That this Concourse of ground so could not check or turn it aside is a mystery.

Those grounds has always been regarded as a territory of safety and storms passing through would be harmless. I am sure people would have recognized their danger if the grounds were not as I have seen asserted in the papers. But not only it couldn't stop this monster monster or turn it aside, but it was actually obliterated by it. It has been impossible for us in Chicago

4963 to fully realize
the awful calamity which
befallen us at home. My
children were in the convent.
My cousin and I were in the
City of Chesterbrown last year.
In the convent I left my
three children, all little girls.

To us the big beautiful
convent building looked so
strongly built, we believed
nothing could harm it.

At the news we were all
turned to act but now we
know the full extent of our sad
loss and so far though we
did what we could do to lessen
the effect of the blow were not
yet successful.

Our mother, their grandmother
in an insane asylum because
of the shock. The meeting
will be held here in a few
days. The call will be issued
by Mr D anger who is re-
garded as the leader of
everything or so I all.

I want to correct the
impression that prevail here
still that no warning
was given by the storm
of the coming destruction
the storm was about to

work all along its full 4964
course. We had letters from
distant friends in various towns
and cities which were written as
late as August 20th, in none
of the letters is mention made
that the tornado was not
heard by them. Herr who had
parents working in the Angel
Guardian Orphanage but lived in
Goliet said the vibration of the
noise like the windows in his
house.

I am sure if panic and over
confidence did not possess the
people the loss of life would
have been small, I am sure
that our friends did recognize
the danger to Chesterbrown for the
storm gave such warning by
its awful insane uproar as
have been asserted in all the
papers, yet all accounts agree
from the testimony of legions of
people that the uproar was
heard as far as St Louis. Was that
no warning? The second and
third engineers and fire men were
in the basement of the Convent
at the time and no escaped
injury. But they had a tough time
to get out as the doors were jammed,

4965 "Heres another" contin
ued Mr Segree "The
President sent the following
message to Congress which
was read to the Senate and
referred to the Committee on
Illinois State Relations.

"To the Senate and House of
Representatives.

The most greatest calamity
in all history has befallen
or fallen upon our fair
Central State of Ill. The
mayor of Sa Salle has
telegraphed first to St Louis,
and St Louis to Washington
City under date of yesterday
of the destruction of Chester
Brown besides other cities
that the disasters to the
supposed to be tornado proof
Gleason Corylum sacred
Heart Convent and Angel
Guardian Orphanages and
other great buildings are
complete that they cease to
exist and all children
nuns and employees have
perished. He is informed
that an unestimated
number of children have
lost their lives or received

in common wisdom told me. 4968
injuries that tortured them
to insanity or crippled them
for life, countless numbers
of people are here homeless
and hungry and though there
is urgent needs of all kinds of
provisions and that the rest of
vessels for the work of supply
and rescue is imperately required
they cant be reached because
of the tremendous destruction of all
communications. Therefor the very nation
is dumbfounded"

Great praise is still however
being given to Mr Segree. He
has worked most indefatigably
to succor the most badly
wounded in his barn. He has
accepted only emergency cases
he and his wife and children
has bandaged the limbs of
the wounded in helping the
almost overworked doctor with-
out sleep without food. He is
now thoroughly exhausted and needs
a good rest.

Provisions are needed here
too."

Shocked by the news of the
destruction of the Convent and
Orphanages James Monahan
an aged merchant of New
York sat silent and amazed on

4967 on the pier after
leaving the New York steamer
in which he arrived from Chicago.
Accompanied by his son and
daughter James Monaham did not
go to Chester Brown.

"Sucky we had no one
in the Convent," said Mrs
Monaham, "The Orphanages, Con-
vent and the other places
were crowded with children. The
Gleason and the Convent were
also filled with the most
valuable curios and mementoes
from all over the world
which all the money in the
world cannot replace.

All these are swept away,
It is said the loss will reach
more than a billion dollars,
We had many child
friends among those places.
Heaven praised we had no
children there, I heard that
those famous little child
children missed being there
frightfully."

Mr Monaham was so over-
come by the news that he
could not talk. In his
younger days he had
been one of the
builders. He is in a hospital

recovery from shock" 4968
from shock" city and
of Gleason 400+

The people
the high officials of Gleason Asy-
lum were rather proud of that
corner of ground. It stood first
as a point of great interest for
tourists. To them there had always
been plenty of supposed evidence
that it was a safe territory that
no violent storms could pass over
it and the easy going inmates
of the Gleason Asylum believed it could
hold off tornadoes and its unusually
magnificent scenery and small
beautiful towns only gave it added
value as a show place, places for
outings picnics and entertainments
and children's games.

When the storm blew off its temper
even the countour of the grounds could
not save itself, let along turn off
the turrer from its course and
was wiped out

Now exactly what happened
when the racing storm came at
the asylum could not be related
much because of intense darkness
but every one who knew the big
asylum and its inmates can easily
imagine the scenes of wild horror
that must have been enacted
when the excitable children and
employees realized that escape
was impossible. Talk about the
strength and size and height
and length of the orphange-

496

4969 We know the sucking power of a leech & lamprey or the eel known as the Sea Hag. The Octopus or the Squid. The Tornados wind rush sucking power is a million times worse. That is why this Asylum and the others were so pulled ~~away~~.

There too starvation will be a condition that'll exist in every town. Three thousand survivors need to be fed and sheltered by the Government near Chester Brown and other places if supplies can reach them.

Other thousands are in need of food. But so far supplies cannot come in because of the destroyed communication. Such a vindictive storm, it is reported that even relief ships are blocked. If it was not for this destruction of communications there would be food in plenty. The water famine is causing more distress than the lack of food.

Many of the former water systems have been pulled out of the ground or disappeared, only in the river is there any living water that can be reached. And the well,

George Melton told me 4970 that noticing a violent oscillation of the barometer in his study room he hurried with his family to the basement an hour before the disaster. But his house was one of the 31 not on the path of the storm.

Over the entire course of the storm after it passed away into the distance there spread a peculiar mist which was injurious to the eyes and which contained noxious properties that caused much distress.

I will now read this. This regal appears in the following statements in a Chicago Journal:

James Peter Prentiss 85½ Webster street son of James J. Prentiss fears that his two children perished in the Convent disaster where the terrible tornado annihilated the city of Chester Brown and all its magnificent buildings, on that terrible August 15th.

When Mr. Prentiss was informed of the destruction of the Convent and other big buildings crowded with children he was in his apartment reading a letter from his mother written a week after the disaster from St Louis to where she had gone. In this a full mention was made of the

497 warning roar of the storm coming to the neighborhood of the city. The letter stated that the Chesterbrown couple and his wife had just put their two children into the Convent where they might be liable to tornado visitation. Mr Prentis did feel that it was not wise in Chesterbrown to do it and that his grandchildren should never be put there in the Convent.

Until a reporter called on him he had heard nothing of the catastrophe at Chesterbrown. Mother writes me under date of August 20th that they saw to Chesterbrown and had been the Convent and the Angel Guardian orphanage. They had been believed to be able to resist the worst kind of a windstorm." said Mr Prentis. "The Convent is situated in the centre of the city near Lincoln Park which was also wiped out with everything on it.

The telegraph dispatches from St Louis which so far can only get the news who was in charge

the reached and the crew;

observatory is a close friend 4972 of our family and always informed them of any changes in atmospheric conditions. He must have been able to know something about the impending disaster in time to warn them.

I have never been in the city of Chesterbrown" continued Mr Prentis. "but I judge from what my family has written since going there that they saw the calamity that all is lost."

I've read this too-

"Mrs Annabelle Rooney of the news of the terrible disaster at the Convent is still prostrated and won't believe it of the statement from Sister Clare the second survivor of the Convent that her three singing children or even the other nine child singers were not even in Chesterbrown at the time of the awful calamity.

At the first time of learning of the tornado horror she had swooned into a strange trance and afterwards was in a serious condition and almost became an invalid. Her sister Mildred Jean Rooney and the latter's husband tried to convince her of Sister Clare's statement

4973 but she still believes
they have been killed."

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“myself”) Mr. Dorgan
said did get communication
communications to them by
wire less telegraph.

They had covered me
back they know of the
awful catastrophe last destroyed
communications has cut them
off every where, and their parents
can't find trains to take. They
say the only from hope is
to get some train first
to Kansas city, another to
St. Louis and then from
St. Louis to So. Ball. They'll
try it next week."

"The Convent was built
on a large space of ground
and in some way did
resemble the Gleason Asylum
but was longer wider and
much higher, and had the
most beautiful fountains
terraces the world had ever
seen.

It was a most beautiful
building and most of its
ground had temperate zone
botanical gardens the
world had ever seen
anywhere, even the

be arrested, and the were,

trees which for beauty 4724
and strength exceeded anything
the world have ever seen. The
roof was of the most fantastic
plan of narration ever constructed.
The stained colored picture wind-
ows of the chapel had the best
illustrations of religious pictures
ever made.

The building was built close
to the Northwest end of the
park and is separated from it
by the wide Illinois River.

For suddenness, completeness and
number of missing victims the
destruction of the vast convent
and all its ground and gardens
appears to surpass all disasters
recorded in history of all
storms.

You can't one third find its
equal in the convent destruction
in Omaha which was hit by
a most violent tornado there
March 23 of this year on
Easter Sunday. But no one was
hurt in that convent there.

It's near equal is the convent
at So. Ball but everybody
escaped there. Although some
light has been thrown on the
character of this terrible
tornado by what which the
big changes and the convent

4975 were blotted out of
existence the exact nature
of the outbreak is a
matter of complete spec-
ulation because of intense
darkness during the storm.
few eye witnesses of the storm
were were on the horses
near by which were missed
at the time of its occurrence
have been found and the
stories they tell are far from
being consistent and also
circumstantial.

In the manner in which
the terrific wind were deflect-
ed in the direction of the
Gleason Asylum after some
unseen power bounced it off
from Western City presents
the most difficult problem
connected with the disaster
which the most best
scientific experts which will
be called upon to explain or
investigate.

It had been said the
curved portion of the Western
side of the city from its
formation hurled the storm
away, or off its course
but it is possible that
the explosive nature of
the tornado as distinguished
from a mere wild wind

was reached and the wave,

was even more extended ~~4975~~
than that and the whole 4976.
Upper mass of the 2nd "Sweetie Pie",
tore Western Gleason City to
pieces before it bounced away and
scattered it outward and upward
in all directions.

A similar phenomenon was
witnessed in Easter When the
Easter Tornado at Omaha occurred
at Berne Park naturally changing
the geographical outline of the
city as it raged on in its main
vortex wiping out Berne Park.

On that occasion according to
maps it too took a sort of straight
line but with nearly as much
an explosive force which tore
out all of the Berne Park district
and hurled the fragments with
desolating force in a direction
close to the streets which it
also tore up.

But it cannot compare to
this Chesterhoun horror.

On the occasion just referred
to there was another phenomenon
which had been witnessed
during the onward progress of
the tornado. An enormous
volume of tornado debris was
by the suction pulled high
into the air - it attained
the height it has been

4977 estimated of fully
26 thousand feet where it was
taken forth by the counter-
currents of the upper parts of
the Mississippi phlegon and
by the outward swing and
flung waded across across
more than a hundred miles
of land as fine debris in
all directions directly contrary
to that of other different
directions of wind and then
deposited in all forms of
small wreckage as far as
Bloomington and even calm
towns and surrounding cities
as far north,

The same phenomenon
was noted during the explosive
fury of the storm as it tore
through Chester Brown to as far
as Chicago although the winds
were northwest at the same
time. Could all this horror
been caused by the storm
breaking bounces off Gleason
City?

For two days even a week
after the Armageddon storm
the scientific corps of the
Weather Bureau at Washington
had tried to figure and
had been engaged in study-
ing of the direction and force
these strange upper
currents of this winter

and the phenomena connected with this most violent storm
and will assist materially in
arranging at some conclusions. Experienced geologists and meteorologists
accompanied the river boat on the
Mississippi for the purpose of
studying these and the other many
extraordinary phenomena of the tornado
on the ground and valuable scientific
results must follow.

The main thing is what really
really had been the cause of
its most violent sucking power.

There has never been un-
meered in the experience of
human beings so awful a scene
of destruction than as that tornado
horror from Johnston town to
Gore ville.

For the accounts of the cataclysm
in which so many children
were in less than thirty
seconds from Orphan Asylum
and Convent were overwhelmed
by the fiercest and ever rear
well may well make the
proudest proudest man feel
how tiny he is and incon-
siderable he also is and also
indeed the rest of humanity
too in the fury of one of
Old Mother Nature's mighty
and mysterious atmospheric
thunders,

we reached and the were

Oiphango by the blast 8980
and whirlwind of unearthly
forces. No event of all storm
can be so impressive. It is
a wind holocaust that nobody
could and would believe could
ever happen.

It is said that there is
nothing like a full contemplation
of your earthquake, your volcano,
or your tornado for
knocking out all concert and
variety out of us human beings.
Even now the cities of Davao
and Malone beside Davao
port is still filled thousands
of refugees all the way from
Chesterburn and they say more
are constantly coming from
even Buntun Berry and other places
round about.

The terror is taking a new
form. There is imminent danger
of starvation because of all the
communication being destroyed
help can't yet get here. The victims
of the awful disaster who have
escaped with their lives and
even without injury are in a daze
and appear helpless as little
children.

They are suffering from lack
of everything save the few
garments on their backs. The
food supply cannot yet reach them.

4979 ? Here is no disaster
to my idea that even can
be imagined to play the
picture of Hell to compare to
this tornado disaster. I know
Milton was the greatest poet
especially his imaginations
and can the infernal regions
as he described them and its
horrid and appalling fury
and such an unmeasurable
horror of Chesterburn and its
Convent (alarmingly compare to
it?)

Can any one compare to
the story of the experience
of those hapless survivors
of both Orphangers and the
supermarket up or whom
the expected suction threw
forth its annihilating storm.
I know all sorts of
great prophets have fore-
told the Day of judgement
even great visions of it has
been foretold by the unusual
prophets but they could not
even impress all people who
even seen this disaster
with more horror than the
extinction as in a moment
of the Sacred Heart Convent
and the Angel Guardian.

me resolved and the week

where there were fields 4982
of grain and wheat there is now
bare torn up ground and where
there were cultivated crop fields
it's all bare deeply plowed
up ground. Then Simon degree
also read thus:-

Percy Lawrence made a
tour from New York arrived
in Chicago August 11th and re-
ceived his first knowledge of
the disaster at Chesterbrown. He
spent several days in Chesterbrown
and was all over the city and
its territory three weeks before.

He spent all that time in
the city studying the people,
noting the convent, the Orphanage,
the customs and all the condition
of trade.

It is interesting to study
the comparative time of the
various tornadoes with the three
tornado disasters at St Louis,
Omaha and Chesterbrown" he
said. We find that atmos-
pheric condition has indicated
serious trouble south west of the
woods near Johnston town.

The strange condition
of the atmosphere between
the two thunderstorms
seemed to be a sort of stormy

of 981 us and what we still
have is so small that with
the utmost caution it cannot
last long among those who
who are here already to say
nothing of those who are still
to come, from all points
refugees are making for Sa-
lalle, all our relief stations
are overworked.

There are probably six hundred
people in the Charbon Thirty
one houses that escaped in-
cluding the University, all the
district about the Convent

and the Angel Guardian Orphan

Orphange is a desolate waste.

Even the whole appearance
of the country in the path
of the storm has been
changed,

lect to government by press release, rather than government by
than elaborate publicity stunts, and that we are increasingly
is that too often the alleged fact finding tours are nothing
government officials to exploit public opinion. The episode
affords the public an opportunity to see the techniques used
dial aspirations of Sen Kennedy. More than anything else, the
not be the Indians nor the committee members nor the presi-

But the most important beneficiary of the furor in Alaska

4/14/69

Radio ... 2

the Gleason Asylum. I'm 4983
a reporter or a tour and would
like some information?" he
man I asked was looking down
hearted and very sober, he
said nothing but pointed to
the tree.

I feet sick. Some of them
had me on a board, poured
river water on my head and
called a doctor.

I'm still in the hospital from
shock But to continue my story

The Gleason Asylum in front of
a long wide contour of land
of very low long slender
hills with sheltered spots
where hundreds of people
living in towns there were literally
blown away.

The contour of ground is
in cut up the upper sections
of the low hills are no more
all the trees and towns are
gone I really believe that
we will learn in a few days
that this was no ordinary
twister It was too extraord-
inary for that. It is a mystery
what caused it to have such
unmeasurable force.

But I am not so sure after
all we have heard the
word of all this. That big
Gleason Orphans was a real

4982 stormy petrel to
tell when a disaster of
this kind was to occur.
I don't attempt to assign
a scientific reason for
this but I cite it as a
fact that everything up
here grew very restless
just before this something
awful happened right
here.

I had been inclined to be-
lieve that the deaths among
the orphans of both Asylums
and the Convent had been
greatly yes much greater
exaggerated. because when there
is a disaster excitement after-
wards causes people to exag-
gerate.

But seeing is convincing.
It's far beyond far worse
worse than any exaggerations,
I was standing on grounds
where there were a few
fragments of a very thick
sidewalk of concrete I saw
off body of man not far
standing and looking
at examining & very huge
but badly shattered
magnolia tree. I went up
to them and asked
Where is what is left of

the roosted. And the were

4984 real delight for
price for children to be
and every thing about the
building is intended to
charm the visitor.

It's a miniature Ozymandias great
palace. It is like a Oz
of every land miniature very
large and long and
really I have never seen
a spot more beautiful
more poetic.

The history of all tornados
would assure the fulfillment
of my predictions. "Was there
any alarm felt by all of those
in the Gleason Asylum when
you were there?" was asked
of Mr. Marston.

"Well as well as far back
as August 12th absolutely
not." No one expected that
the grand Contusion of the very
very ground would ever let
an old twister tear it up
or intercable devastation
and rent forth at the
Gleason Asylum a storm of
the wildest wind and death with
the annihilation of all the
apple trees.

It was unlooked for. That sort
sort of ground was regarded
by all in the Asylum as a
sort of very strong protector

even the children had 4985-
an almost superstitious affection
for it. From the very outskirts of
the Asylum the ground rose very
gradually some sections to more
than ten feet its sides & grown
thick with high rich grass and
all kinds of flowers and dotted
here and there with spreading
but magnificent shrubbery, towns
villages and most of trees.

There was no pleasanter
spot for an outing in some
afternoon or a journey up the
green velvet like long rise of
ground and a view of the quaint
picturesque Magolian River and
the ships at the quays.

This territory was actual
peace itself. It seemed to promote
perpetual and the best and most
complete protection even imaginable.

Even the very people of
Gleason City relied upon it to
keep back dangerous storm from
that territory. and to frighten
with its stern appearance the
tornados from the west.

But it was expected to allow
the coming of the well needed
rains of summer and the welcome
winter snows. Big blizzards
they really enjoyed.

was so much as they disappeared

"4986 ? wonder what the
trustful & worshipful
people thought when the
grand contour of land began
to fail them. As near as I
can ascertain the tornado
bouncing from west Gleason
was forced to change its
course and came at the
ground contour from the
south west

From the portion of the
grounds the tornado must
have torn straight into
this territory sweeping
through its west districts first
and next blotting out
the length of the grounds,
then it crashed head on
upon the Gleason Asylum.
Had someone three weeks
ago when ? was visiting,
the Gleason Asylum told the
inmates and head employees
that a tornado would cross
the grounds and hurl death
and injury upon them and
wreath out their home he would
be laughed at.

I can hear the placard for-
bearing inmates, president
and others say:
"Oh no Oh no, the con-
tour of the ground is our

protector, it will not let 4987
any destroyer of a cyclone even
come near us." But no one ever
suggested it because no
one ever suspected it. Nothing
can stop a tornado, and a high
is never in its way.

"It was said that a large
part of the population living in
the contour had been killed or
injured by this vicious storm.

Governor Seward Able Cannon
of this territory was killed and
also the Colossal offices of its
town of Jena is completely blown
away, ? when leaving the hospital
he continued on "armed at what
had been the contour three days
ago ? found the state of
affairs much far worse than
was given in the reports
forwarded by the administrator
and his investigators.

The contour grounds is along-
side the Illinois River between
Robin Rock and the Gleason
Asylum, a stretch of sixteen
miles, of which six miles of
it was traversed and devastated.
? do believe this territory was
the hardest hit of all others,
The number of killed will
never be known as they disappeared

4899

4988 like those of the Sacred Heart Convent, Jena town ceased to exist. The managers and owners of estates with their families and several of the better class of people and the Mayor of all the towns either were killed or disappeared like the rest.

Not one person was found, and all the towns are gone, yet it is stated that 160 from there were sent to the hospitals in Gleason city. Probably six of this number will recover.

The details are too harrowing to describe. All the trees are gone not even a root is left in the ground, even the shrubbery and grass and flowers are gone. The hill tops are torn away.

Lance and concern in this area continues.
representatives who beat back the repeal effort and we hope meted out to those who violate the law. But we applaud well if it should be stronger, and that more severe penalties and fully are not entirely pleased with the registration law in Illinois is going to endanger national security.

As establishment, we fail to see how a gun owner's

the best sugar estates on this territory have been devastated and all the cattle are dead, I went on foot to Jena on the road. The remains of a man and horses were passed. Further on was seen the body of a man at the foot of a pedestal where the big statue of the Blessed Virgin had been on its top, he apparently having been killed while praying.

The large twelve foot statue of the Blessed Virgin which stood on the pedestal was buried two miles distant from its base.

All the beautiful vegetation had disappeared not a sprig of green was to be seen anywhere. Some stock had died.

All plantations and villages were actually gone. All areas of cultivation were found to be wiped out. Five other rich plantations were gone. A town called Kingston is safe but Georgetown is gone.

In the hospitals at Gleason there are 187 sufferers from the ground fever with little chance that any of them will recover, I wonder if it was the fault of the head of the Gleason Asylum Superintendent that he was decried by the doctors

extent of the awful calamity
is now being realized and
every effort is being made
to grapple with it. all

69/19/69

of the ground was what 420
you call the most massive
stone work is calcined. The
Gene Cathedral it gone is all
gone with the exception of one
tower and of the vaudeville theatre
no wall is standing. The Virgin
Mary Convent which contained
500 girls and 36 men like the
Sacred Heart Convent disappeared
with every body and also the
college of the Ten Lady of Angels,
where seventy boys, eighty
girls and 22 priests and pro-
fessors were domiciled.

The cathedral tower
built by the jesuits a half cen-
tury ago of of Cyclopean
work of mason is now like a
huge heap of old metal.

It is said that for twenty
minutes tornado conditions had
been threatening the contour
of grounds after severing off
from Gleason City but what-
ever was happening it
never produced so normally
that it was permissible
for even those who were

4900 of the grounds. He
and his son had declared that all
had declared that all
danger from a tornado never
will be. He had an ex-
the Asylum cyclone cellar under
his employes and a dozen of
gotten employes could have
there as everybody down in
the as quick as a drill.
Court, will soon be facing
hears.

I hope he runs out for
blame and where he is to
know he was more seriously
injured than all the other
survivors. The destruction of
those grounds is most appalling.
at what is left of main large
on the northwest portion
of the ground contour the
once magnificent townhall***

and friends of Sgt. Jerome Stubig and Sgt. James Schaefer.

Salute these policemen, and express our sympathies to the

a brand of bravery any man can admire.

neighborhood. Deputy Police Superintendent James Rockford

which side with courage and with concern for the safety of

is still standing on the first
floor story when at the
69/91 river side of it. also
in the northwestern part

4902 inclined who to
look on the dark side not
to dread a catastrophe
though of course it was grow-
ing dark, and also a noise
in the air as if all the devils
and angels were having a
mortal combat.

At Jena where the agita-
tion of the coming storm
attracted as it raged on much
attention and anxiety which
existed, gradually grew worse
and much louder when
almost suddenly a violent
explosion of most violent
wind, overwhelmed Jena
blowing away nearly every-
thing and most of the people
leaving only 23 dead per-
son behind and then
within the course of less
than fifteen minutes the
whole 6 mile length of
the grounds was annihilated.

At the beginning of the
middle section of the contour
the storm came like all
the atmosphere had gone out
of its bounds throwing all
precaution to the four
winds and this first

portion was torn madly away 4903
by a cloud of belly bursting
horror which increased as it advanced
and wild was the fury of the
storms attack that it swept
away everything in its course,

In the lower contour near the
storm swept river nothing was
left, except a half wall of the
strong city hall tower at Jena.

To the stupefaction of those very
familiar with the spot the town
electric tower clock and tower itself
remained intact as if to show
the precise moment of this awful
disaster, and this surer indication
deeply affected all who saw it. It stopped
at four thirty,

On the other hand the telegraph
office was ruined but still its
contents were mysteriously burned.
Some fragments of the apparatus
of the wiped out telephone exchange
were thrown away as they say as
far as a hundred thousand yards.

Bodies of persons for jena that
were found the same distance
away and whose attitude were
perceptible were lying prostrate
with the bodies bones and
other organs protruding all the
way out heart also protruding
through the split open chest
as though forced out by the

4904 way they were flung
about or pulled out by the force
and fury of the wind, and
with the heat, partially or
really carbonized by the heated
wind.

It is a melancholy and
most humiliating thing that
this should happen here.
Yet the damage done to the
contour of the grounds by
this terrible storm is now
known to be immensely
greater and more widespread
than was at first no
estimated.

The immense estate of
Million are Wallow Pierre
Marat has disappeared and
has been replaced by ground
debris from other parts of the
ground contour. Interesting
and unbelievable discoveries
have been made regarding
physical changes of the
ground resulting from the
storm fury.

Several - two feet deep
wide fissures torn out by
the uncontrollable force of
the wind have been observed
on the contour.

Henry Richmond Poles -
Pierre an estate adjacent
to Pierre Marat which was
formerly flat and upon which

there were several laborers 4905-
cottages has been completely blown
to the four winds and out of the
estate there now rises a long
ridge of debris thrown and scattered
here from other parts - yet since
the former passing of the unsurpass-
able phlogiston the condition of
the atmosphere is also apparently
improving.

The sulphurous fumes are almost
gone. Owing to the destruction of
the estates all farm crops are
are torn away. What has caused the
formation of the noxious vapors
after the storm we like to know.

Physicians who made examinations
said that in most cases death
also could have been added by
aphyrration of the noxious gas
had been strong enough and was
akin to weak fire damp, which settled
upon the territory with the storm
recession and also almost rendered the
survivors insensible.

This theory is accepted by
the survivors who were taken
from the ruined river steamer
near there on the river Harbor
as they said their experience
when the storm rushed away
was one of strange faintness.
It was reported by those

4906 who arrived from the ground contour before the storm August 14th that the very dumb animals of all kinds were wiser than their master or mistresses long gave atmospheric conditions warning of the prodigious storm of wind it was storing up for the contour to hurl upon it.

Residents of the contour saw and heard the warning in the great uncommon nights like moon thunderstorm and they refused to heed them.

They remained and the danger which had long confronted them brought death to unknown numbers of them, even before moon on the fifteenth before the storm even showed signs of formation live stock of all kinds became very uneasy and at times almost could not be controlled by their owners and masters and some ran away to the far distant southern fields.

And they couldn't be enticed or forced back. cattle Iowed in the mountains in fact for they downed all

the night before all 4907 dogs howled and began to seek the company of their masters who did not drive them forth out of love and sympathy. As they gave every evidence of great their masters began to suspect something amiss but could not ascertain what.

Even wild animals disappeared from the grounds, even the gopher and other snakes which in ordinary times are found in great numbers and are valuable for farmers crawled away Birds ceased singing and also were gone.

Chickens would not stop their loud rattling and kekuket sounds, ducks and other birds kept up a continual commotion and farm geese disappeared away.

Donkeys asses and mules kept up an endless loud braying,

A great fear seemed to be upon the contour and though it after all was shared by the human inhabitants they alone neglected to protect themselves, then the paper said on -

"For this man the grim

4908 worry of fate did
speak for him. His name
I believe is Walter John
Harrison. He was a janitor
in the Jena Post Office. From
him we had the only story
that has been told of the
overwhelming of the small
Contour City.

He was an American born
Irishman a native of Jena.
Besides English he speaks
Irish fluently. He was at
that time working in the
basement cellar placing pro-
visions in order in the cellar
he sorted food cartons and
fruit, especially oranges, Henry
and apples.

He was in the cellar
when probably the end came
for every other living
thing in the ground contour
except himself and an
old woman who has since
died.

"It was nearly four thirty
in the afternoon that it
occurred" he said I had
been working in the back
yard, and disturbed by
such intense darkness
and a howling sound in
the distance I went back

to the 4909
cellar. The air was
stifling and the noise was
increasing. There was an
awful dark cloud over
head but that was not
unusual as we had a very
bad thunderstorm the
night and noon before.

I went back into the
cellar to get out of the
heat and was near the
foot of the steps leading
down from the yard
when there was a sudden
increase in the noise.

It was an awful hum-
ming sound but it was as
loud as though all the
thunder that ever roared
and all the cannon in
the world had been set off
at once.

I fell on my face knock-
ed down by the shaking
of the earth by the continual
concussion. I could not have
lain there for twenty seconds

4910 I could not have been
there any longer when I
recovered my senses, I hear
was an awful roaring
sound as though all the
houses were being torn
apart or swept away.
It was perfectly black
all about me and down
through the door of the cellar
there was a blast of wind
coming that was hells fury.
I thought I had died and
was in hell.

The door of the cellar
swung shut with a most
loud bang and to avoid
the furious wind I
lay still. The more and
fury of the storm increased
drove me mad, I felt I
could not dare stay there
I found the door and tried
to open it, finally I did
but the wind was blowing
such a wild gale
I did not dare go out

There was a pandemonium
of awful sounds, it was
very dark and the
air was full of clouds
of flying ground, and

dirt and debris and I went 4911
blind. I dipped a rag in a water
bucket and tied it over my face,
I heard fast to the door as some
suction within the cellar tried to
push me out.

The roaring was fearful
of breaking houses but it was
peace compared to the thunderous
 roar of the mighty storm that
lasted way off over a minute.
When the wind storm stopped
I made my way on my hands
and knees to what was left of
the back wall of the Post office
yard.

I took the rags off my eyes and
saw that the wall had almost
been blown away and the roof
had been hurled onto the river

The post office was on the edge
of the water. The front part
of the post office or what was left
of it seemed to be moving
along with some mysterious
strange movement of the very
ground.

I thought I was mad, I could
not see anything about me
for ten feet it was so dark.
There was nothing in sight.

A most dreadful lightning

4911 "as I was walking across
the sky. The heat fol-
lowing the terrific wind storm
made me frantic and I
threw myself down over the
broken wall into the water.
The thunder seemed to slash
the sky and the rain was
a cloud burst

I broke my left leg
when I fell on the stones.
I tried to crawl along the
river bank and found a
place under a large overhang-
ing rock where from the
river I could get some water.

I stayed there all night
sheltered from the torrents
of rain and all the next
day.

I could see out but saw
no house tree or persons.
The next day I continued
to crawl along the south
bank of the river. I saw
no man nor woman child
nor even a dog. There
were not trees or
houses or even anything
in sight. I must have
fainted for I knew
nothing more until I
found myself on a hospital

"and my left leg in a cast" 4912
Another report says: "The winds
of the storm have made a barren
and most horrible waste of what
was a week before the tornado
one of the garden spots of the
world. and the ruin wrought
by the 'hellish' hell fell far short of
the reality."

Most remarkable are the
topographical changes wrought by
the mighty storm. At the passing
of the storm the sky was most
curious from a strange violent
electrical phenomena. At times the
air was cut and slashed
with electric discharges and
during the late dark evening
a ball of fire and luminous
clouds lighted up the ruined
country for miles.

What caused it. And over the
entire territory there was for hours
after the storm a peculiar mist
which was injurious to the
eyes and which contained noxious
properties that caused much
distress. During the progress of
the storm there seemed to be a
mighty wrenching and shaking of
the air with a noise that sounded
as if all the powers of the universe
were struggling above your head.

49

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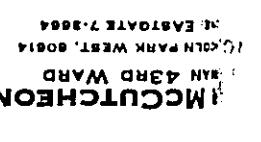
4913 At the close of High Mass in all the Roman Catholic Churchs of this whole country in the morning of August 18. the funeral psalm and requiem were chanted and prayers for the dead were said in memory for all those who perished in the worst tornado horror on all record.

The congregations actually over crowded the churches and immense collections for the aid of the injured sufferers and homeless were taken up. Even the twelve most famous singing children out of their funds had masses said for the victims. They had mourned long over the disaster for many of the child victims in the Convent and the Angel Guardian Orphanage had been their best and loving friends.

And now they're gone. The poor thirteen children ~~were~~ could not stand the news and were prostrated over it and their marrow es cape.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
SECOND FLOOR, CITY HALL
TELEPHONE: 744-6800

CITY OF CHICAGO



APR 12 23, 1960
Mr. Ron Pinkowski
Department of Streets
Room 704
320 N. Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois
Dear Mr. Pinkowski:

4914
and they're hospitalized because of the shock.

Even while in the hospitals they had broke down and cried over what had actually taken place? Their cries had grown louder

Now they're all dead because of the awful disaster and we can never go and see them again.

Their nurse tried as hard as they could to comfort them the children could not be quieted and kept weeping harder than ever.

For the awful thought had suddenly come to them that all should die while they had been so far away from them.

And then after a long time when they would go to the scene of the disaster everything would be as still as death and they would be all alone and could never see again their dear ones.

A sedative finally quieted them and put them to sleep.

Appropriate services for storm victims were held in all non Catholic churches also throughout this country and collections to aid the sufferers were taken up.

4965 Likewise such a terrible catastrophe as that which overwhelmed a beautiful contour lands cape paralleling the destruction of Pompeii and repeating itself upon the Gleason Orphange, if simply blotting out the contour as a band of fair homes and oxidizing its agriculture and business and destroying half Isle of the (Hilltops) hilltops raises the old question again how our much better I nessim can deal with such an awful event.

Like wise think of the sudden fury of this most powerful of all type of (Tornados,) tornados. Even the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah did not meet such a fate.) to people of the contour grounds were no special wicked kind.) to people were more decent than those of the cities and they needed so far as we can ascertain no slight finding we judgement from heaven or hell. Likewise all the people were staunch faithful Catholics.

Some say the problem 4966 to a constant materialist is somewhat easy. To him all is involved in the chain of the natural forces which have no purpose and no praise or blame what was in the principal egg of cosmism had to involve itself into unthinking and also un pitying.

We can strongly grieve and lament pitifully, or we can rejoice but the arrow shot from the original nebular starburst moves straight on unknowing and relentless.) here they say is a chain of cause and effect and effect follows cause mechanically,) here is law only law and no will no heart no love and no actual hate.

Such is the view of the very materialist and it offers the comfort of despair. But) heem has before it the same facts the same relentlessness of the hand heated God old mother nature.) if our God is good why does He allow evil, the tornados blow the awful earthquakes shake the volcano burst to pieces quite regardless of the presence of humanity.

7917 Indeed the belief
in a Divine superintend-
ing almighty Power brings
in a fresh difficulty the
difficulty which every thinking
soul of man has felt of
the permission of Evil Again
likewise if God is good why
does He allow evil.

Can He not help it? Is
He all powerful or is He
not all Good?

Believing in the Three
Divine Persons as God we
believe or probably know
that He created Nature
and gave it its laws. There
are those whose notion
of God requires
them to believe that He
gave Nature no laws or
powers, but that every
chemical combination every
evaporation of a drop of
dew is a special act of
Divine will exercised on
Nature, and they say what
we call laws of Nature are
only God's habit of doing
things.

This is a needless way
of maintaining the Divine
rule over Nature, it involves

- 1 - to 1 -

Involves the disagreeable thoughts that every mischief of fever horrible ravages such as war or flood or disastrous storms or flame of volcanic explosion or earthquake or tidal wave is the effect of a special volition of God to that particular end.

It is wiser and more philosophical as well as more natural to think of Nature as controlled by laws imposed upon it those laws acting automatically although their action can likewise to some extent be controlled or diverted by the opposing will of living beings. The weakest tornadoes can uproot a whole farm tear up the very fields to a depth of three or four feet reduce a home and barn to splinters or dust and sometimes wipe him and his whole family out.

A tornado can suck up the growth of grass in a pasture grass deep ground and all it can turn a part of a wood into mere splinters of debris a field of wheat onto form of an arching flying clouds, or a sandy shore of a river into a barrier of sand and country under can make a sharp rifles of the of a city it tears through and wipe out a town. It can suck up a stream or lake.

4919) he atheist must think
of God as having made
laws for nature that are
good in their general effect.
That hydrogen should
combine with oxygen to
form water is very good
that carbon and oxygen
should make carbonic acid
is good and vegetation
depends on it.

But every law though
generally beneficial can
and may be exceptionally
cruel in its action
especially like this law of
heat that is no reason
why its steady rule should
fail.

We must learn to under-
stand its rules and to avoid
its evils. We must not stop
on the streets like many
did gawking at a coming
tornadoic storm, its like
stepping off the edge of a
precipice in the dark and
also do we need to build
build our cities and towns
in a "cyclone ally".

We must learn to
rejoice in the beneficence
of the law and submit.

submit to its unavoidable 4920
cruelties. The comfort and the
peace must come in the thought
of the general goodness of law and
the advantage that follow from the
fact that we depend on its
certainty.

We do not need to wait for
some great catastrophe to learn
this lesson. When a friend goes
and gets ill and then dies
we are not to think of it as
some judgement of Heaven on us
for our sins, as if God were
sending a special chastisement,
we are to think of it as nature's
and so God's wise way of removing
and renewing the generations, and
of our ignorance or neglect
of some law of nature has
hastened the end of ones life.
We should take that blame
to ourselves and to learn the
more how to make these laws
kindly servants.

If to some minds this
seems to remove God further
from us, seated behind the
law to other wiser minds
God will be seen enthroned
within the law giving it its
power and glory as should
we in its general beneficence.

4921 No greater cataclysm
had ever already known in
the annals of civilized man
than that which swept the
contours of ground with the
unbelievable following awful
awful destruction of the Gleason
Asylum in the lead.

But likewise the influences
of romance and
romantic history still casts
a wonderful glow about
the territory of the Gleason
Asylum and that eruptive
tornado which wiped away the
classical contours of ground
and engulfing the Asylum
and made it the most
the greatest and appalling of all
of nature.

We can transport ourselves
in imagination much more
easily to this ground contours
before the awful storm
than to the same kind
of storm that ravaged
western Omaha on Easter
March the twenty second
this year for all the
resources of the imagination
are instantly called
into play.

It was the most purely and
most beautifully pictorial era
in which the world has ever
known. The catastrophe then
enacted on these beautiful
territory of grounds had a setting
of physical and artistic beauty
such as have never since
been compared in so great a
measure.

These grounds indeed are now
not so extant and is left in a
formation very much modified
from that which was known
to Illinois before this great
tornado, debase now the very
architectural beauty by which
man had supplemented the
beauty of Nature is laid waste
now for six miles and it
is feared will never return
to its old time splendor and
magnificence.

Why do twisters usually
choose the beautiful spots and
territories to devastate, even by
the help and culivation of
man. This contour of ground
had reached the climax even
of farm and landscape
prosperity. Raised to the rank

4923 of paradise territory it had been recognized as a national territorial colony under (President) President Lincoln in 1864. She had become the Paradise, and the centre of the Illinois and Michigan river main commerce situated near the shores of the most beautiful river in the world it lay between Gleason City and Waukegan Railroad which had come to be considered the unsurpassed beauty spot in the world.

And the dark tornado would come along and destroy it.

For how long before even that or this time this territory had been in this so called cyclone territory is not known.

This much is certain however that from the coming of the first white men here the weather had given no signs of ever going to even see a tornado.

Lincoln seemed indeed to recognize it as a sort of territory threatened by dangerous storms but whether

departments did not include 4924 it in their list of suspected tornados since the storm the contour of ground presents a far different appearance from that which it exhibited then.

Of this extraordinary and inexorable catastrophe which so unexpectedly resulted we have an excellent account of an eyewitness in a letter written by an eye-witness a son of a farmer whose property was not on the contour to his son.

His son had asked an account of the destruction of the beautiful territory which had perished during the dreadful phenomenon.

He afforded the father an opportunity of detailing all the circumstances from the beginning until it got too dark to see what the storm was actually doing.

In this fateful August the fifteenth, Nineteen hundred and thirteen we learn from the statement that both the farmer and the son with the elderly who was his Aunt were on the farm near the contour where the elder farmer was out in the field at that time.

1925

"On the fifteenth of August says the farmer son about thirty-five minutes after 4 P.M. my mother called my father's attention to a long very wide cloud shroud of very strange extraordinary size and shape. (He) rose high high like smoke of a dry Western prairie fire left the field at once and went forth on a height whence he might more distinctly view the strange phenomenon.

As it was getting very dark it was not at that distance discernable from where it was coming from.

I cannot find a more exact description of the figure than as I said before than by comparing it to the big high rising smoke of a big Western prairie fire. But it was in great agitation the central interior section being in such frightful convulsions and upon that I immediately started for my cyclone cellar through

4926
it did not all appear to head for my farm, I yelled to my father to follow but I guess he did not hear me because of the awful racket and his curiosity was aroused.

It became evident that the phenomenon was an unusual and most threatening one. I stopped running as I saw it was racing for the ground contours. Just before it disappeared by being enveloped in a black and ominous darkness the inward section of the shroud seemed to go mad.

"Come pa" I yelled through my loud speaking trumpet. "It might come to us. That's a wild tornado."

But he didn't hear me because of the deafening uproar. By the concussion the fields rocked like the sea and there was a terrible vibration in the air that broke the glass of the windows of our house.

We really did think that our farm was beset by real imminent and terrible danger there for Pa, Ma and our farmhands

1927

1927 went hastily to turn our horses and other domestic animals loose from their corals and to bring away out of danger if possible the cows and the sheep.

Advised to forsake and save themselves the men refused to do so.

On they worked driving the cattle to the southeast through an atmosphere each second growing darker and more hollow and stifling. Our ears were deafened by the roar of the storm. In the river roadstead a ship was trying to run downstream away from the on coming flood sounding her siren which however could not be heard above the storm.

With steam up another ship stood ready to run as soon as the farmer's party of ours could get away and head for the river. Finally our brave men were forced to abandon their attempt to release the sheep as the ship added to the general din its note of alarm and while out of

1928

the sky rained rocks broken trees and clouds of dirt clouds and other debris.

My father saw added to the wind shroud a column of debris apparently heading for the town and apparently spreading toward the farm. Directing his men to make all haste back to the cyclone cellar, he turned aside to give warning to the other party turning loose the live stock.

"For Gods sake get to the cyclone cellar quickly if you would save your lives, the tornado has exploded into maddest fury and destruction is upon us."

At that instant the storm was making a combination of sounds like a hum above a noise along the ground as a howl and crashing sound as loud as if it were hundreds of thunder claps in one. It did not die out and the loud roar of the ships which were in the river roadstead though screaming a warning could not be heard. Other river steamers immediately put their

8

4928

4929 way down the river
at top speed without cessation
the whistles of others were blown.
ing. I could know it by their
steam. I he sky was filled
with extraordinary lightning,
working with us were a
couple of negroes
I he bravery of all our
men was worthy of the
greatest praise. They refused
to abandon the sheep.
"If we die" one of them said.
"we will die with the sheep"
as rapidly as possible
the men succeeded in releas-
ing the sheep for the pens.
One of the men stumbled.
The fellows waited until
he could recover himself
when all went desperately
to work together
Each minute the sky
darkened. The fury of the
storm was beyond compre-
hension. But by a fortunate
turn of some kind the
great part
were
+ co.

"Rescuing two survivors of the 4930th
devastated town of Jena which went
through the worst sandstorm on all
record. On the terrible afternoon of
August 15th the Feast of the Assumption
and was swept by a suction power
that pulled all away with it the
Banda Fe by a roundabout way,
reached St Louis on August 23
in the morning.

The men who passed through
that most awful experience are
Captain Charles Thompson Scott
and Whilliam Peter Schloeder who
was in the ill fated town.
Mr Scott is a stalwart man of
fourtys. On the trip he told a
newspaper correspondent John Carey
Whilliams and passengers on his
coach his story of this inexorable
harrow.

Both he and Whilliam Schloeder
were still much very badly shaken
by their experience and could
only tell by snatches what really
happened. This is his narrative
which I wrote down for the
Daily Chicago News:-

"The Rock Island Special arrived
at Jena 7th. at half past 3 o'clock

4931 and stopped at the station.

There were about sixty-eight passengers on the train, the conductors, boilers, some peddlers. I went out to superintend the removal of merchandise from the baggage coach assigned to the town itself.

Three hundred yards away was one of the streets of the town. We were two hours on hour and a half on there when the skies grew very dark overhead as if another awful thunderstorm was coming.

The sun seemed to have gone out and the city became as undistinct as almost night. The mayor came out of his house at that moment to see how severe the storm might be and with a look of fright on his face at what I suppose he saw sprang for the basement of his house.

He had barely reached the steps going down to it when there was a pandemonium of noise as if all the sky and ground

had gone insane out of its bounds. Everything seemed to be rent by a most terrific tumult. Even a thousand claps of thunder at one time could not be heard above the roar.

A rain of ground debris, fragments of trees, torrents of wheat and other crops fell on the town and with it came the choking fumes of sulphur.

"Get to the station basement quick" shouted somebody. We headed for it as our nostrils were filled with the phosphorus that filled the air. Then somebody shouted wildly:

"It's coming, It's coming, Get to the basement, Get to the basement"

We got to the steps when all at once something hit like an explosion leaving the station into flying fragments in all directions. The engine and the six coaches of the local train actually disappeared.

I had started to reach the low, steps towards the basement when the station was

1133 no more and a great wall
of dirt earth and other de-
bris topped with fragments of
trees and stuff from farm fields
seemed to rush towards us like
a sea wave. The sky darkness
had fallen on the town be-
hind us but blazing lightning
lit up the scene.

The wave of ground went
into flying cloud blizzards
and I thought it would en-
velop us and entomb us in
the basement but the storm
also tore off the basement floor
or roof roof and threatened to
get the basement.

I don't know where it
came from but the wind
blew a round metal wash
tub over my head which
some how shielded me

In the worse of the squall,
I was caught in an awful
swept swirl of ground particles
blown down into what was left
of the basement

that It was at this moment
I received serious
injuries. During climb
of ground was pouring in

4934
into the basement I should have been killed had not William Schlauder seized
me and dragged me into an
old excavation torn up by the
storm.

It seems as if the wide sword
like wave had as against a ship
struck broadside on. Everything
seemed to disappear or was swept
away, the tops of the low rising
ground all trees villages, all
farms and the crops and ground
gravel, I could not describe the more
for my life's sake.

The station and tracks were
gone railbed also. We stayed down
in that lower cavity while
all hell raged above it us.
And by holding planks on
ourselves we escaped serious
injury.

The engineer had tried to
jump from his cab when he
saw the storm coming but
was restrained by his fire
man. Both were swept into
the air together with the
locomotive. I remained in
that hollow until the storm

4935 ceased and then went up and out. The storm was still on sight and raging on towards the northeast yet a lot of stuff was still falling.

It was still as dark as night. It could not have been nearly two minutes between the time the sky first darkened to the time the raging fury of the unmeasurable squall passed on and I left the basements depression.

Of the five hundred persons in the railroad station only thirty remained alive the rest apparently having been blown to only God knows where, and only very small fragments of the station remained.

The fury of the storm of wind was unmanageable.

My friend Mr. Schloeder owed his life to the fact he fell down the steps into the basement when the black squall struck and destroyed the station. He escaped injury. Not one of us hurt but hereafter rather live in a deep cave

than see such a tornado 4936
as that."

William P. Schloeder referred to above also told the following story of the struggle in the basement of the railway station during the "eruption" of the funnel cloud

The people on the local train had seen the storm heading for the contours of ground for some distance during the last of the trip and now as we came up into the open two-track side station that afternoon in the pallor of strange cloud formations appeared to connect with the higher and darker cloud alone. Several of the passengers getting off the train to watch the strange cloud shapes.

The local train steamed right to her usual stopping place less than a quarter of a mile of the downtown of Dena. The water of the river was quite smooth and although enormous quantities of crazily acting clouds were boiling up and there was very great far distant crashing of thunder the sky was not yet dark and the view was most excellent indeed.

4.937) he peculiar form of clouds seemed to be at some unknown distance from the very contour a little by the head of us and over the territory beyond Gleason City.) The West & Atlantic Telegraphic Company was standing near the station but this did not prove to be any screen between us and the immeasurable fury that rushed upon us afterwards with the suction as if of a thousand whirlwinds at once.

Not one of us on the station hardly escaped if a few had not succeeded to get into the basement in time. I left the station and found all of the passengers and some of the train crew who were not on duty standing on Genoa street watching the strange atmospheric show.

As it was Assumption day no one in Jenna would do any work some said they were suspicious of the action of the distant storm. They had never seen clouds act that way before. Erroneously

it was the opinion of everybody in Jenna for the streets the river pier and rooftops were covered with spectators enjoying the majestic spectacle.

This was about five minutes before the storm came and tore the grounds to pieces.

At this time of all the people were crowded everywhere enjoying the sight while my friend and I were standing on the station platform, and as it began to grow rapidly dark we heard a terrific commotion along the distant ground,

Everything far and near seemed to be crushed flat by the sound. We saw that a great long stretch of great ground seemed to burst into great surging rushing clouds about one third the distance of the way, and hurrying most wildly towards us.

There seemed to gush out of a swift wide shroud which seemed fully three miles wide an awful mass of something black thousands of times greater in size but like the gush of smoke that darts out of a cannon while being fired

4939 at the same time the higher clouds were boiling into something that looked like frothy waves as if stirred up by some mighty power the movement far above their bosom 7 m less than a minute the storm was tearing away then struck the station with a frightfully loud explosive sound and came rolling over and over above us and upon itself as it advanced up us.

I can't understand anything like the rolling of this cloud as I never saw anything like it before. It roared forth and advanced like a gigantic beach comber of water with its strange top part always rolling down upwards and also in all directions and with the after swirl rising into the parent cloud or the great mass of strangely convolved shroud rushed at us.

Great clouds of ground earth and every sort of debris arose from the contact of such a powerful wind. The raging clouds of debris blotted out

everything from our sight. 4940 There arose up an outcry of many terrified voices. Now as the appalling storm advanced upon us the ground seemed to rise up he in great clouds and cut off from view what was left of the ground contours.

at that moment the station was buried and flung about like crushed dust in the roaring storm and a great inner wide whirlpool seemed

to pull everything up and away.

Then the terrible unmeasurable wind struck and sent everything away. What was left of the station acted like a ship in a tidal wave as if keeling her over on her starboard side and on her beam ends.

Then everything seemed to disappear and at the moment this unmerciful storm swept on as I heard "more frightfully loud and threatening" that was a sound of everything being swept away like chaff.

Even then we had not received the full force of the storm yet as it had not come up to us just now. Then when it came it seemed the end of the world

4940 In Jena one wall of a four story hotel was flung down started by terrible wind raging throughout the building like whirling explosions and then all the building disappeared into the air all in an instant.

I should have said that when the head station agent heard the explosive roar of the wind he leaped out of his office and ran outside.

"Mr Scott" he called to the nearest baggage man. Get to the basement quick. Leave the work go to God's sake I let us all get out of here as soon as we can."

I made a rush for the basement to get out of danger.

Scott yelled to a cart man - Get to the basement. Are you deaf man?"

Just then the wind blast struck us and swept him away so that he never reached the basement.

Mr Scott was running for the station companion stairway so as to get to the basement where he could secure safety when a gust of wind whirled him round

and buried him head - 4941 long down into the basement so that he was not even injured. That strange freak action of the wind saved Mr Scott's life and neither he nor the station agent was injured by the storm.

When I ran into the basement on the west side of the two hundred foot long station my idea was to plunge under the merchandise so and so protect myself from the rush of wind, but before I got half way covered the terrific wind hurled the building sideways. The windows were wide open and the wind came rushing in in a great force and fury. The

The wind was almost burning hot. The innrush of the wind swept me from under the merchandise and hurled me across the basement against a wall and held

me very tightly against it.

The wind was so hot that I felt as if I was burning up and released by the wall flying outward I fell to the floor and then madly tore off my coat and waistcoat.

As the building was still going

4942 to pieces I thought all of
the contour was erupting away.
As the building was disappearing
in the wind I held fast to marsh-
andise in the basement.

The head station master
was before the storm on its
platform giving orders to the
others to get to whatever shelter
was nearest when the blast of wind
overwhelmed him.

Bareheaded and dressed only in
his summer clothes his hair was
torn off and he was struck by
flying splinters from head to
foot. Then whether he was
crazed and delirious from the
pain or whether he became so
weak that he could not support
himself I do not know but
he immediately fell down the
wide steps into the basement.

Daniel Cooper jumped after
him. He caught the station
keeper and tried to pull him
away from the west side of the
station. Just then some big side
of a wooden (horse) house
came from the shattering build-
ing and hurling into the
basement hit us both,
knocking him unconscious.

I never thought he was 4943
dead; then I was surprised to hear
him say suddenly,
"Get me back to Mr Scott for
God's sake get me back to the
Station. If I do got to die I want
to die in the station, I am willing
to die but I must go into my
railroad station." Then the station
master lay back as if dead
and it was sometime before he
spoke or moved again. When
he was convinced that the station
master will come to Daniels
climbed out of the boat base-
ment and walked towards its
rear.

As he reached there he saw the
station steward steward Miss
Conforth all torn and bleeding
and with her clothes hanging
in shreds and bloody.

"My God what the matter?"
cried Daniels and he ran forwards
to where he had left his
companions on the platform.

It was at this time that I
myself made my way forward
from where I had been thrown
by the wind. I saw one of
the baggage truck men a young
fellow named Hiram lying
outside beyond what had been

"4944 the station flat form,
I found that he was dead
his clothing and skin hung
together hung together in
ragged patches. The blast of
wind had passed long ago
but at the moment of this awful
explosion of wind there were
hurled through the air and
everywhere onward and all di-
rections many countless tons of
ground debris, and every thing
from the ground.

Wreckage of buildings were
falling with the rain of dirt and
for a few seconds breathing was
almost impossible, it was im-
possible to see any distance,
the roaring of the retreating
storm the shrieks and cries
of the dying. the rain of debris
and building to wreckage and
the tornados strong and almost
poisonous gas every where
made it seem to me as if
the end of the world had
come and all of us were
in hell.

There was very little of
the station remaining.

The sun of debris 4945
debris still continued
Mr Scott, Daniels and I first
looked at each and then stayed
where we were until morning
under shelter from the all night
rain of the second thunderstorm.

The next day what we seen
after the disaster caused us to
bring to Gleason city tales of horror
and profound grief.

I gave this account of what we
saw:

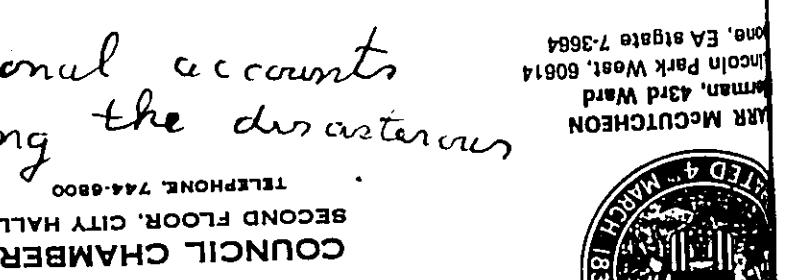
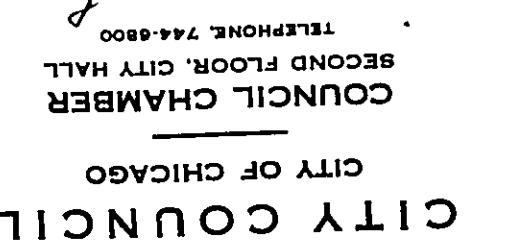
"We knew after leaving Jeno
that the disaster throughout the
contour grounds was one that will
shock the world, but we were
not prepared for what we found.

Going towards Gleason City we
saw the western city side of
the city in shattered particles
with no sign of life in that
section. As we neared the river
the wreck of twenty eight
ships were seen. We
on the contour of ground found
all the large big trees gone
except a half dozen or dozen.
Some were with the roots
uppermost and all branches
badly twisted together or if
woven and without a leaf or

4946 bark on them also
on some all the boughs
were snapped off and scattered
scattered all over the contour
of the country and every where
else. We had noticed that
one big wooden house had
been torn asunder like a weak
parts board box and the wall
laths were twisted all in one
direction just as if one might
twist a handful of straw or
hay.

This seems to point to
the fact that the sudden force
of so much wind at the time
of the tornado, explosive force
did what no tornado could do
before, I know many places
that the wild fury of the storm
very bad but I do think
the contour of the ground got
it worse of all.

Surely additional accounts
 vividly depicting the disastrous



tornado outbreak up on 4947
the contour of ground were re-
cived to from the Sa Salle
Journal that reached Latona
It shows August 22 th confirming
all that had been hitherto been
stated concerning the overwhelm-
ing contour catastrophes.

a beautiful iron and partly brass,
brass crucifix which stood on
the contour has been melted
by lightning, Only the base
of the masonry badly uprooted
on which the crucifix stood
and the lower part of the
foot of the cross can be seen.

A child's pathetic
tale.

In the city hospital at
Sa Salle were eight rare
survivors of the contour disaster
of those who were rescued
from the wreckage of Jena.

Among them was a little
eight and half year girl Mar-
garet Sullivan Cunningham.

I never saw such a pathetic
figure than she presented,

4948 But she did not come
gena on the contours though
she was found among its
debris. The child was terribly
mutilated and lacerated. Her
face was disfigured. Both arms
and both legs were fearfully
much mutilated and she had
thick bandages around her
bosom.

Her belly had been almost
cut open but she lost far
less blood than feared. She
was in great pain. Yet she
fortunately did not lose
her parents.

" I lived at 340 center
street Johnstown with mamma
and paper " little Margaret
said. " On the afternoon of
the awful cyclone we were
at afternoon supper, when
something knocked us off
our seats. Then the building
seemed to explode away
and caught me and carried
and threw me mostly
roughly to where I was found
as the rescuers at first

thought I was dead) 4949.
I don't want to die, I hope I
am not going to die but

I tell my mamma I here,
outside of her parents
the only friend the child
has is her nurse Margaret
Muss-hull, who is a very, very
capable woman. She does not
know what to do with poor
little Margaret as her (parents)
parents can't get to her yet
because of the destruction of
all communications.

The doctors say it will
be a very long time be-
fore the little girl will
recover because of the long
abdominal wound. The nurse
who so bravely & tried to
protect her little charge
was also very badly injured.

There are terrifying sights
in the county hospital -
at La Salle, several
men were almost literally
shredded to pieces but were

4950 still living the whole side of the face of one man is gone but his sight is still preserved. They are John Manley Evans and John C O'hara who were both engineer and assistant on the ill fated schoolhouse of Jena to where little Margaret was blown from Johnstontown.

Despite their terrible injuries with their bodies also scoured and maimed by their treatment from the fierce wind they bore their suffering bravely.

However they will always have the proud record of having saved little Margaret Cunningham.

This section of ground was considered one of the most beautiful territories in the world a Illinois paradise.

The annihilation of these important grounds the principal center of river commerce in this part of Illinois is very unique in one particular so far as verifiable history is

concerned. It cannot be 4951 pronounced as from other material cause yet it was a fierce overhanging whirlwind seemingly caused by much unnatural forces. The number of victims here is unknown.

What renders the tragedy on these grounds is the appalling quickness with which the work of destruction was completed and made sure of.

Suddenly before quarter to four on the afternoon of Sunday August 15 a whirlwind of surging crushing force enveloped the ground and the river harbor and in less than two minutes all was over.

We repeat that so far as history accepted as authentic is concerned there is no record of a tornado catastrophe equally sudden and decisive, the destruction that had been worked on the country was something to make the heart sick.

Science has begun a systematic and persistent assault upon the "war patterns of the Tornadoes."

L
Helpless to check
4952 their destructive cold
fury she has none the less
sent here wise men from
our schools armed with every
method and exact methods
and with delicate instruments
and they have assumed the
tasks of observing and record-
ing what ever may be gathered
for the stock of human know-
ledge.

A most singular
unbelievable phenomenon.
The opening cloud
belly with irresistible
horror.

Among these eminent scientist
is professor Snodgrass of
the University of Front Royal
Virginia. "To my mind he
said: "The most interesting
part about this tornado
horror is the fact of the
explosion of the child clouds,

belly. In reverse I believe 4953
it was this, the protruding
tongue, turning into the twister
did not go all the way down
to the ground from its source
but pierced first through the
chest, and with immeasurable
force forced its way through
the belly of the child formation
of cloud.

What ever was the cause
this was the source of all
annihilation.

The funnel that shot from
the "child's" belly in an action
like a blow pipe effect was
actually shot in the direction
of that of woodland region
and the vessels in the river
roadstead along side of it.

The intense wind fury and
immeasurable force of the
blow pipe cut a patch through
the full length of the
woods and there is a very well
defined line of total demar-
cation between the section
it so savagely tore its
way through,

4954 yet the most unusual point about this freakest formed cyclone is the fact that the awful twister exploding out of the cloud belly in a down to the woods direction and afterwards took a horizontal onward direction and while it is too early yet to attempt a definite explanation of this singular phenomenon I am inclined to believe that the funnel tore through it to a very great length and following the law of gravitation descended with great velocity a velocity comparable perhaps with the swiftness of its onset especially when it fell upon the end section of the woods and then tore on its way through with unmeasurable fury.

Here it encountered the main woods in its progress and was accordingly deflected in a horizontal direction then good by to that portion of the woods.

Likewise then what? 4955- after the uttering fury the woods -the horror of Johnstown devastation, the knockout blow at Gleason City then the ill fated contour of grounds, it was actually equal to a portent of universal destruction blazed before a terrified country and world.

It was the actual real beginning of the crash and most violent suction wind pull of the greatest tornado disaster of the age bursting with the most appalling unmeasurable wind pull through these grounds all Illinois was joyful in the beauties of late summer time, prosperity and progress were reigning.

Suddenly out of that cloud belly came the shock of the most violent tornado ever on record the destruction of Johnstown Gleason, Dena and Ground contour villages villages the disappearance of most

4956 of the people and
all on the contour of grounds,

This terrible tornado des.
wiped which overwhelmed and
out six miles length
of the ground contour among
the most peaceful and beau-
tiful landscapes in the
world, and even here destroyed
an unknown number of lives
in almost an instant and
injure many more badly
and painfully had about it
a certain unique features that
justify and all other such strong
and mighty wind cataclysm
of nature, It had far more wallop
than even a powerful
atomic bomb.

However shocking the catastrophes of
be none of them can com-
pare to this storm, It was
a wind convulsion of nature
tremendous beyond all man's
conception, immeasurable beyond
measure, almost at our very
doors. It happened however

or did come at a time 4957
of the printing press and
of the newspapers and books
had been invented also
telegraph and telephone but there
were now of no avail for
nothing if weeks and weeks
could depict the truth or the very
scenes of the destruction itself
because of the wiping out of all
communications.

Now on August 15th 1913
The feast of the Assumption of
Lady (Mother of God) comes a
swirling cloud of devastating
honor inconceivably tremendous
almost as ? say again at our
door, with all these invented
agencies of modern progress
at hand for recording and
preserving every graphic detail
and this kerotic harudian
wipes them out.

Even the news of the
tornado and the slaughter it
had wrought as far it had as
far as it had traveled could
not even be flashed as
far as St Louis South.

4958 When the first news
be obtained and that was
soon all people there wanted
to know all the whole truth
of what had happened es-
pecially to the most im-
portant spot of all the
contour of the grounds.

So near to us was the
great storm, so tremendous
its effects so widespread
the simultaneous reports
of other things the twister did
and the effect of its strange
reverberating disturbance that
they did not ignore them,
nor dare to.

What part of the country
would be the next to be
stricken? Was this the
beginning of a series of
catastrophes all over the
country? What were the
real causes of such catas-
trophes of nature and
could they be frost, cold,
could this be the cause.
I remember the long heat-
ing steam pipes on the sides

our schoolrooms when I 4959
was a boy. Set the steam
into those cold pipes and you
have thought the cannonade
at the battle of Gettysburg
was young on in the school
room.

Was there the same kind
of conflict between the cool
and hot air in the cooler full of air
in the atmosphere, but where
the cool air won, and the
cool air descend too suddenly
and force the warm air up
just as swiftly as to cause
the tremendous whirlwind to
form,

I know there is a furious
conflict between cold and hot
air in those pipes when the
steam is on, and the awful
languishing noise stops when the
hot air wins. But it does
not win in the atmosphere
but is forced up. So does
this cause the atomic twisters?
These were the natural
questions rising in every
mind.

4460 Of course the devastation of Johnston town the asylum the convent was really a spectacle of unspeakable horror which never can be obliterated from the memory of those who saw it but it is believed the actual obliteration of the ground cover could have been much worse because of its undo exposure.

All those who had made desperate efforts to hasten there to the relief of the wounded and suffering had a tolerable time to reach there because of the wiping out of all rail and road communications or obliteration of all telegraph telephone and other ~~electrical~~ running.

The very country was aroused to an ~~out~~ outpouring of the greatest sympathy never before excelled. Ships were quickly gathered, money of food clothing and means of healing to hasten to the stricken Northern Illinois for the quick

salvation salvation of those 4861 who survived but all this was blocked by the destruction of all communications, "Sweetie Pie" saw to this accomplishment. This too in one way made her the worse of all tornadoes, no tornado ever did this before anywhere.

The one bright spot in the whole terrible picture was placed there by the unexampled demonstration of universal human sympathy the brotherhood of man and that touch of nature which make the whole world turn when suffering assailed this nation region and "Sweetie Pie" would block and defeat every thing.

I will have to say that it is in response to certain queries and to relate the whole story in a long description of this awful wind convulsion that this had been written in so long a detail and still be long ending in the investigation of its far reaching noise.

4963 Therefore the purpose of this present volume has been to combine in lengthy and proper proportion the very features which should give it permanent value for thrilling reading and reference no less than immediate value for its even lengthy value for its story of the Chesterburn horror.

The only one thing is mistaken, the great wheatfield fire should have been the last in this book.

Yet with that in view this chapterless story likewise is descriptive of this inexorable disaster of August 15 from Johnstown to Larimore and across the rest of the country, and which were followed by a scientific explanation of the cause of the formation of this uncommon turister, a long unusual story relating the details of the most interesting historic disaster of August 15 1913 and a long and complete and

authentic account historical and descriptive of the whole course of the inexorable shamban at these places on which this latest disturbance occurred and on which our own american interests are so rapidly advancing.

This latter detail is a matter to be emphasized so it is hope further lengthy description will not bore who ever reads this. After what is to further described here of the horror will be immediately followed by the detail of the visit of the ringing children who were not in Chesterburn at the time of the disaster, and then the trial of the Gleason Orphanage superintendent. The outcome of the trial will only be told them.

Strange wild atmospheric conditions and unusual actions on the part of the river were noticed from August 13 th to before the coming of the

4965 first big thunderstorm
by the inhabitants of the
territory and it was feared
that some terrible calamity
was pending, the contour of grounds
has two interesting claims to
distinction in this it is said one
of the mayors of Chicago was
born of a farm family there
and ~~too~~ passed his child-
hood there

It is said there is a statue
of him in Chicago's
public library. The second
distinction it has was a beautiful
lake, + now pulled away by
the storm.

It was just before twenty
five on the afternoon of
August 15 that the storm burst
its bounds and bore unbe-
lievable destruction to the
ill fated grounds and its
farms woods and towns
and its beautiful lake.

Here as elsewhere within
a minute and forty five
seconds most of the six
mile stretch of ground had

4966 disappeared in a whirling
honor vomited from the belly
of the "strangling child cloud".
The contour of grounds was
no more. These descriptions
will go on record as the
most most astounding on the
history of all tornado catastrophes.

The manner of the annihilation
of these horrors and the uprising
out of this Illinois paradise
is unique indeed in the full
history of the world. Omaha
was not a parallel for it only
was swept on the west side.
But where the contour of
grounds once was there is
not a bed of ground
now. Here grounds are
gone from the earth and
totally

and that Jerry town and
the contour were wiped
out in an instant was
probably due to the infernal
onrush of the storm after
bouncing off Western Gleason.

By no means however

4969 with all its
The marginal
the alter is wo
in half vertically
left of the wall
precipitously or
toward the center
abject ruin. Where
had been before
bles existed.

But some
building that
had been some
increased in
flung from other
houses.

Of its immense
strong slanting
framework and
it too had done
of the remaining
walls were part
some were
debris from other
many changes
place in its p
ground and of
ing streets.

The famous
air terraces w
run only two
then remaining
magnitude of t
this "sweeps P

4967 from its western
center curve though ever
here the direction of the
landscape had something
to do with it. In this way
one can understand how
the tornado missed the main
section of Gleason city which
escaped annihilation, for it was
out of its pathway.

Strange indeed it must
always seem to this country
and the world that those
who live in a territory
that has the reputation
of Tornado or Cyclone Alley
should not heed the
muttered warnings of the
disturbed atmosphere between the two thunder-
storms and its strange
premonitory symptoms of
a coming storm by the
cloud in the form of a
strangling child and the
blowing out of the belly
part of the cloud which
as is said again was the
cause of the annihilation.

But more than half o 4968
century had passed and the
weather had yet never threat-
ened any serious outbreak,
except severe thunderstorm
of summer and early fall
and fall rains and winter
cold waves and sometimes
very severe blizzard and freez-
rains.

But these ~~are~~ are not wind-
jammers that blow all to Hell.

These contours of grounds
with its wide long but
not at all slopes green and
most beautiful which were
as familiar to many tourists
and others as the very places
at their very doors, yards its
beautiful shady trees and its
beautiful lake and bathing
pools furnishing them and
tourists and pleasure ground
for their recreation.

And so as familiarity
breeds contempt of the greatest
dangers until they are thought
no dangers at all the com-
ing of no any Tornadoes was

4969 with all
the marginal
the alter is we
in half veracally
left of the wa
precipitously or
tward the cent
alject run. When
had been before
bles exiled.

But some
building that
had been some
increased in
blung from other
houses.

of its unme
strong slanted
framework and
it too had de
of the
walls remaining
were part
some were ca
debris from oth
many changes
place in its p
ground and of
ing streets.

The famous
an terraces w
run only two
then remaining
magnitude of th
this "Sweet's Ru

4969 not feared except as
the remotest of dangers
hardly enough to cart a
cloud over the contour re
gional grounds. The first that
was known at Gleason City
of the disaster at the grounds
and of the Gleason (Asylum)
Asylum was at 4:35 P.M. At
that hour there suddenly
spread over the city of Gleason
a thick strangely formed
storm cloud which came from
the direction of Johnstown.

On southwest,
The cloud swept over
the city with terrorizing
swiftness turning bright
daylight into the darkness
of night with hardly
a moments warning.

From this cloud came
lightning as bright as day
followed by thundersalvo
that seemed to split the
earth, and also as witness
said hailstones as big
as baseballs, pouring on
the city to cover like
snow the streets and
throwing the people into

4970 onto the wildest panic.
4670 towards the far west of the
city there was an appalling
commotion of sound, a
great wind swept down the
river and ships at the river
wharves were flung crashing
against each other with great
force or were absolutely blown
away.

Everybody now knew
what had happened, A tornado
had struck somewhere with
the most appalling results.
Throughout the streets of Gleason
city and along the river front
people ran hither and thither
in wild panic on all sides
there was but one cry:
"It's a tornado, It's a tornado, It
is a tornado."

As quickly as possible in
the confusion the Mayor of
Gleason, and city authorities
realizing what need there
was began to orga
organize some system
for carrying help to those
known to lie in dire
distress. The supply train

4919 with all
the marginal
the alter is w
in half vertically
left of the wa
precipitously or
toward the cent
aject run. When
had been before
bles exiled.

But some
building that
had been some
increased in
flung from other
houses.

Of its unique
strong slender
framework and
it too had de
of the remaining
walls were part
some were a
debris from oth
many changes
place in its p
ground and of
ing streets.

The famous
air terraces w
run only two
then remaining

magnitude of t

this "Sweet's R

1972 which had been side-
tracked became instantly
alive with activity. It was
made ready for a trip to
the Gleason ground contour
territory as quickly as possibly
and started away at full speed
in the direction of the contour
where there had been a
great column of something strange
and awful noise.

There were several auto
trucks that had arrived at the
city that same afternoon and
they made instant preparation
to go there. Tools and
provisions were hurried aboard
of them and they started
away in the wake of the
supply train.

They had not been
gone over two hours when
they returned bringing back
the tidings that the ground
was utterly destroyed, the
Gleason Asylum a thing of
the past, and that the
entire river shore from
Gena town as far as as
could be seen was no
more and that it was
impossible to cross

4973 4673
reach any point on account
of the intense blockage of ground
wreckage. At one place all
sorts of debris fell from the
sky in such quantities about
the trucks and everywhere
else that the trucks seemed to
be loaded with it.

Along the river shore the
scene was most appalling. It
looked as though all that part
of the landscape had been altered
by a severe earthquake. The
supply train got back to Gleason
city many hours after the
motor trucks which had
followed in the effort to reach
the scene of the disaster.

On board the supply train
were thirty survivors who were
picked up near what had been
Gena. All of them were most
frightfully injured and ten of
them died on board the train
before it reached Gleason
city. The supply train
played a heroic part from
the moment of the disaster.

4974 Fortunately having
steam up there was no
time lost starting for the
nearby territory where it was
evident that the great
disaster had occurred. Through-
out the next day the debris
blockage in the vicinity
of the territory was so in-
tense that it was totally
impossible to approach
the territory during the early
part of the day.

As evening approached
the supply train after a
heroic battle with the
ground debris of all kinds
succeeded in making a
desperate run towards
the territory getting through
close enough to enable
it to pick up all the
thirty survivors of the
disaster.

The same local
train a mail of the
train called at the junction
at ten o'clock August 15th
standing on a siding south

of it sounding its whistle and
the men of one of the coaches
sending up rockets. She re-
cieved no answer. The very
whole river front seemed upset
out for miles. The engineer
sent some men towards there
but they could not get through,
because of ground debris.

Not a living soul appeared
after the train had waited
two hours. Debris still com-
ing down from the skies fell
all over the train, all attempts
to get to the junction or to
the rear were buried by a very
conglomeration of debris. The closest
observation by morning, day
light showed the stretch of
ground being almost no more
therefore it was certain that
the whole contour of ground
and neighboring country for
miles was utterly destroyed
and it was feared here that
few if any of the inhabitants
escaped.

4917 How a great deal of Johnston-
town being nearer the awful
belly bluster itself escaped or
could have escaped more than
it did, was explained by the
fact that Johnstonstown was too
far back and on the ^{south} ~~north~~
side of the river than the
northern part and that it
was separated from the main
path of the storm by an
irregular road.

It is supposed that to
funnel from the protruding
tongue did not come straight
down to the ground but
forced itself first into the
chest of the child cloud
and burst its way from
some weaker point on the
lower front which was
supposed to be the belly,
which was torn out by
the force of the explosion
funnel and that it sent
out its apples using change
of immensurable wind
force not forward or

skyward but slanting 4918
downward like an enormous
column armed first at the
woodland then to bear at Johnston-
town and all the river and
territory in its path. Then at
Gleason and the contours and the
Orphanage.

It was from some of the child
and other survivors that the
alarm felt in the city of Gleason
for a few days prior to the disaster.
Furthermore the Superintendent
of the Gleason Asylum is still
being blamed for the loss of
the lives of the children there
because of his overestimated faith
of the contour of the grounds and
the indignation against him still
runs high.

Again it is said it is still
remembered that while "Sweetie
Pie" was threatening and giving
warning of the disaster it was
about to work the Orphans Asylum
had had believing the ground
contour would block the bluster
or turn it off its course refused to

4979 permit any general exodus from the Asylum to the underground refuge beneath the building.

Only the day before the storm disaster a full commission of scientists presided over by the Superintendent of the Orphanage and appointed by him assembled in the Asylum for the purpose of studying the strange phenomenon of the coming of the tornado disturbance.

It was agreed that the relative position of the grounds and the situation of the orphanage debouching on the shore of the river permitted them to affirm the security of the Orphanage from any terrific uncommon storm.

Yet he survived on surviving his serious injuries, but his

4980 2
wife and whole family perished. We know that he is all an awful blow and sorrow to him - but that won't prevent him from facing court proceedings when the time comes. His wife had been found alive, but she afterwards died. She was conscious in the hospital at So. Balla for a time while the physicians tried to save her. She could relate only few details of her experiences. She said that on the day of the terrible disaster some awful big cloud came and enveloped the Asylum like an enormous umbrella explosion and she thereupon was flung away somewhere she knew not where and thereafter fainted. When she recovered her senses a few hours later she was admiring wreckage of some buildings in storm ripped So. Balla and horribly injured. And glancing around she saw two members of her family still alive. They had been blown away like she was. They died before help could reach them. She died two days later. In coming towards the Orphanage it moved with a rapidity that made it impossible for anything to understand. It was like the force of the cyclone was greater than strong Orphanage building would have. First been leveled and then swept all fast board and then swept all away with everything in its off the bottom of ground. An enormous cloud

491 4981

49

the tremendous force of this avalanche of wind had swept all bare before it. That the Orphanage was doomed it was known, but all were prevented from seeing the destruction because of the intense darkness that came with the awful storm.

If all the marines in the world were in titanic combat where the Asylum was with all their guns firing at one time it could make the noise the shroud made when it enveloped the Orphanage and all its territory.

"A glimpse of hell" was the graphic expression by which John Michael Freeman, mayor of Jena who though severely injured survived the cyclonic horror spite of the scene in Jena river harbor when the "Grecie Pe" probably tore the grounds skyward and destroyed the hapless craft trying at their anchor chain in the river harbor and on the river.

The river rocked in sympathy with the trembling earth caused by the storms concussion and death was upon the face of the waters.

The whirlwind of inexorable force and fury that bore on over the land and then enveloped the Gleason Orphan Asylum and swept the very road clear of every mate... and living thing there was a great wheel ship which released from her ironings by the worst savagery among her crew was found here

three miles down the river 4982 and then released by the stro storm crawled pitifully away with dismantled rigging minus her smokestack and shredded sheets, an unrecognizable hulk covered with mud and ground clothes from the Conquer and with dead men lying where they fell among all the ground and other debris on her deck,

118 vessels were or riding at anchor in the river harbor when the implacable fury of the tornado mad wild wrath wrapped their shrouds in the fierce ferocious fury of the most strongest storm that ever blew.

As if in terror of that uttering blast the shroud around the storm tried to pull itself loose. For more than five miles it widened out round the vortex of the gigantic whirlpool of an formed from the protruding tongue of that strangling "child."

In another moment the mighty eng bowel rushed on to make its wild whirl mad shroud go with it and in another moment the center of the shroud turned in wrath and rage and mingled with its ruthless torrential A fearful moan was uttered crazed

4983 shroud lost controll
of itself and a fearful wind,
no tidal wave or avalanche
could outmatch came sweep-
ing twards land river and
Capham home lifted the fleeing
craft high into the air and
engulfed them all - save one
poor wounded thing that
struggled through the hellish
fury to bear the frightful
tidings to the neighbouring towns
and cities.

When the "Sweetie Pie" had
passed on its way and spent its
foe the waters of the wide
Tidewater river were thick with
the wreckage of shore and
river harbor and in the midst
of it all the sailors from
the sunken and wind shattered
ships and terror stricken
human beings from the wind
lorn shore were struggling
desperately for life.

and as they fought, and
choked and fainted and sank
the heavy haul of debris
and ground particles and yellow
sulphurous fumes for the awful
storm hastened, the merciful
end.

Few there were that came 4984
out of that awful baptism of whirl-
winds fury alive.) here few managed
to swim ashore and save themselves,
through floating trunks of trees
and the mass of debris which filled
the water of the river harbor.

An inhabitant near the
woods at Johnstown seven miles
southwest of Gleason city who was
watching the strangling child
cloud formation at the time of the
beginning of the catastrophe said
that there thirteen lightning flashes
followed by very loud thunder
before the belly of the cloud
burst.

He said that all about him
when the clouds belly burst there
was a terrific suction of air which
seemed to be dragging him
irretrievably towards the fallen
funnel in spite of all his
resistance.

He thought the entire outburst
that did all the work of havoc
did not last more than
a minute and thirty seconds
though it took twenty minutes
to tear through the length of
the woods from its starting point.

4985 Then there was complete darkness from then until morning caused by the dense clouds. The entire country all that course of the storm was turned into a chaotic waste.

"All the trees were either torn up by the roots and carried away or snapped off to the level with the ground,"

another said.

"I was near the contour of ground when there was an awful approaching roar and quickly coming darkness and something seemed to give vent to an ugly mass of dark shroud which spreading over the entire territory and environs suddenly broke into a solid mass of the most horribly strong wind ever known before."

"The horrid shroud traveling with hurricane speed also spread over the river harbor enveloping all shipping in a perfect

maelstrom of hell's wildest fury, snapping the spars of ships flinging them about like toys and uprooting them out."

From the rush bark in the river harbor called the Shannon several men were saved among them John Peter Cunningham of Moline Ill.

Although on deck and unprotected when the ship was treated like a toy in a child's angry hand by "the wind" he was little injured. Cunningham said there was first with the coming of sudden darkness an awful noise as from the howling of countless number of dogs at one time and as loud as thunder and then right away a cyclone of the fiercest wind ever experienced but such was the power of the wind that not even the biggest ships escaped from being flung about and here and there.

The cyclone tore the masts out of the ships exposing that gale blew others out of the water into the shore here and there, and sunk some of them. Soon came afterwards came a wind much stronger

4.1.87 than any one could ever have expected. That "Lord" continued "Conningham" was much bigger it seemed than any I ever saw in my whole life. The "Lord" absolutely floated and "Conteur" of ground. It came then went in a little more than half twenty seconds.

Waking some men from the shore ships got to the river darkness.

Yet a strange thing happened to us. When the storm tossed our ship around it at passing through about ten ships at the end of its I threw it over on its beam ends and tore away the ship upside down with us inside of it.

The long wide house rolled over and over in the river from the violence of the squall nearly drowning the life of us inside, finally when it became stationary we managed managed to climb on top of the battered house which with the wind stopping and ceased rolling and somehow got to shore. We did not float down the river.

The river roads lead alongside the "Conteur" presented a most forlorn appearance. Usually full of river excursion ships and throughout passenger craft. It was littered with severely battered wrecks, the wreck of the big two sided wheeled pleasure ship is only a shattered bulk, the paddle wheels and decks gone.

Complete destruction of "Jena" had fallen upon her, the wreckage what was left had been swept down the long gentle slope all the way and the uprooting and twisting and breaking breaking of the few trees left behind was such as no ordinary tornado had ever done.

Strangely all the trees were all lying bent towards the river.

What astonished the party of rescuers was the very few bodies found. Talk with us was of the "Conteur" disaster confirmed the awful suddenness of the disaster. An enormous quantity of sections never seen in a tornado before produced an enormous speed of wind producing the greatest and fiercest

4989 48c

under the horse
showing only a portion of one
arm. A large bronze statue of
the virgin with a crown on
its head on one of rising
contour grounds was hurled 20,000
yards distant from its base.

The pedestal could not be found.
The statue was found standing
on its head but was not at all
damaged.

This together with the fact
that the few remaining huge
trees with ten foot circumferences
were torn up by their roots
and flung every which way
with some of the largest trunks
flat not one being left
standing and all their branches
whipped to pieces or tangled
tightly among each other
~~shows~~ shows that the bluster must
have had wind velocities
worse than nuclear atom storms
put together in one.

The St. Michael Church
in Feng was down except
one tower, and of the very
Movie theater not even a
wall remained standing.

1988 atmospheric pressure never
known in the worst tornado
ever before which overwhelmed
and carried all before it.

The roads to the contour
were almost impassable even
to any one on foot. It is they
are covered with the split
and shattered trunks of what
is left of the trees and
general ground wreckage hurled
from the tops of the hillsides,
and wheat and grain
scattered here and there
were deep.

The entire hillsides look
dangerous. It appears as
though some of them might
collapse. From a careful
inspection of a dead ~~horse~~
horse and rider it was really
fortunate that their limbs
became rigid the moment
they landed, their position
showing they had been
blown there from somewhere.

The man's right leg
was in the air as though
it had become stiff while
he was in the act of
being flung down.

There was another corpse

4990 I visit to the site
what was left of
St Michael Church showed
a portion of the tower still
standing. The large three bells
lay outside of the ruins thrown
here and there.

All of the altar had been
destroyed but the golden chal-
ices were still there undamaged.
One large chalice was
seen the Host still there
undisturbed. Also a small and
still larger chalice was on
were full of the Sacred
wafers not one of which had
one was disturbed.

A man who saw the fatal
shroud from the deck of the
St Louis wood laden barge
called the New Orleans and
who escaped death after being
sent overboard from his ship
like an arrow from a bow,
by fastening himself to
the bowsprit of the vessel
which whirled around in
the water by the force of
the wind told something
of the story of the storms
unmerciful fury in fixed
intervals.

The man was nearly

insane at times from his 4991
sufferings. He was at work on
the deck of the huge bark
or barge at 4:30. on the late
afternoon of the unmeasurable
(cataclysm of the squall,

"I heard first an approaching
increasing roar like countless
numbers of dogs screaming
and roaring louder than any
thunder I've ever heard that
rent the air and sky and
made the mast of the
large and the lumber on the
deck to quiver.

The long ship shivered
and quaked its full length
as though she were alive
and the lumber on the upper-
most piles acted as if it
would jump off, as
tightly charred as it was.

Though I could not describe
the howling noise, an awful
deafening humming sound
high up in the sky, left
me senseless for an
instant. It was growing
awfully dark. When I
stood up from the very
noise the ship was careening

4992 from side to side.
The whole sky grew
very black.

There was a great on-
rush of black shroud and
while I'm telling you it
reached the ground contour
and us. Our long barge
was only a few fathoms
from shore and at Jena near
us I could see people
running about.

Hundreds had ran out of
their houses at the first
awful roar. Most of them
were kneeling in the
streets.

It only seemed an instant
before something awful
was sweeping into the
river harbor but it now
was so dark I could not
see what it was. Yet I
knew Jena with a mere ill
its houses all the people
praying and running about
in the streets all every
thing had been swept
away by the inner part
of the shroud.

A tornado I knew
it was, the storm

reached the river harbor
it missed the shore but
got our large turning it
around like a merry go round,
I don't remember any more of
it."

It is supposed that too much
chilly air rushing into a warm
area produced an unmeasurable
atmospheric pressure, a few
trunks of trees still standing
showed that the irresistible sea
rush of wind passed harm-
lessly by twenty yard from
Jena. The houses were all
wiped out in that place on
the Club estate a few buildings
not on the storm path
were untouched.

The body of an old man
was found beside a shattered
upside carriage to which a
pair of dead horses with
their hairy skin torn
in shreds were harnessed.

The old man was still
holding the reins in his
hands as though about to
get into the carriage when
stricken down. He was
naked. A naked boy lay

4994 lay across him dead.
The features of both showed
horror and terror. Inside the
shambles of a wooden house
and behind a dining room
door was the body of a ten
year old girl. Her hair was
tangled into a tight knot on
her head and terror was
stamped upon her features,
in the neighborhood of Jena
a country telegraph office was
ripped apart and its debris
scattered and the instruments
were found hurled a distance
of 1,800 yards. The metal of
the instruments were badly
twisted out of shape and
could not be recognized or even
replaced.

There was talk of really
abandoning the site altogether
and placing a strong
guard of soldiers around the
corner of ground on the land,
and a river marsh guard
on the river harbor to
make sure it could not
be approached by an
spectators or curious sight
seers.

That Chesterbourn to 4995
3 and will might never be
rebuilt became probable.
(they never were) The appearance
of the corner was changed.

Paniers have been filled
with all sorts of debris, the
desolation is indestructible
and on a mean view of the
corner I found it much
more ghastly than ever was
reported.

Acting Governor Henn and
the other insular authorities
and a committee of doctors
of Jena perished in the
disasters. The cyclonic fury
of the storm is shown by
the uprooting of the biggest
running trees some of which
are turned upside down. In
Jena all the lamp and
electric light posts are torn
up bodily. I saw the storm
head for the corner. Each minute
the sky darkened.

In an instant there was a
crash in the sky back
of which it seemed as
though scores of thunderbolts
had been forged into
ones.

4996 As it died away there came a sound on the far distance that to me was far beyond comprehension, & was southeast of the territory.

I with many others watched the progressive storm the grandest and most awe inspiring night ever visited by an man and it was us.

There was an impress of column from a large moving shroud of something unusual that reached in a long slant into the cloud above,

about it was a funnel shaped mass of debris that could not be penetrated by the eye.

I now that curse the craziest pandemonium of sound ever heard, and also some sort of hissing a very reverberating could be heard amid the roar of the storm.

Terrible as the storm was

at first sight it was mild comparison with that when beginning when it came closer. meanwhile I know the people in town was in a state of panic and justly the time was one of terror as they had to no shelter to flee to. The very earth seemed to have lost its foundation.

On towards dawn rushed a wild wind of death.

The culminating came a few minutes when the storm came like an explosion so terrible that walls in the city of Gleason were shaken down and the inhabitants fled into the open streets.

It is said that the fury of its explosive force was much greater than that which accompanied the storm which devasted the western section of the city of Gleason.

4998 An awfully thick cloud lit up by flashes of lightning spread over head. The people of Gleason City knowing what had happened at its west end part at once became panic stricken and in scant attire rushed most excitedly through the streets of the town.

Stones from the contour of ground and trunks of trees everything almost like a shower from a volcanic eruption fell in the street like rain forth by the passing atmospheric maelstrom. Even parts of building walls brick or wooden came down and by splashes of dirty water and mud.

Many of the inhabitants would have wanted to embark in the vessels in the river harbor and it was with difficulty that they were eventually assured that that part of

the river was in its path. ⁴⁹⁹⁹
The storm was now worse when it was reaching there and great boulders were being scattered about every where, and the aspect of the country in its path were being changed. More heavier clouds than ever covered the sky. When the heavens were filled with lightning as was frequently happening it could be seen that the storm was heading for the enormous Gleason orphanage.

Everything far around its path was lashed too fury beyond measure indicating that the same forces that caused the twisters bee-line course were working tremendous changes on the vortex of the storm. Words are absolutely inadequate to describe the actual and fierce conditions.

Mud and water sucked up from the lakes water was expected at any moment. The fury of

5⁰⁰ the twister was getting
5⁰⁰⁰ more violent on the
extreme. Colossal
columns of conflagration
matter were hurled in all
directions from the storm which
high swirling clouds above
rained high boulders
many feet in diameter
on Gleason city and the
country near it from an
enormous elevation above
and with the most fearful
velocity.

The terrible shroud
advanced until it came
within reach of Gena Loun.
The spectacle was most
appalling and beyond any
description.

Some people reported that
the entire harbor was actually
running with wind. The
whole population of Gleason
was much more in a frenzy
of panic during which
soldiers, police, men and
women rushed through
the streets while overhead
the upper tornado cloud
see rained down stones
tree ground and other
debris. The awful shoul-

was in constant revero 5⁰⁰⁰
convulsions. When the terrible storm
had passed all evidence pointed
to the passage of an unmeasurable
blast of furious wind traveling
at enormous speed and with
incalculable force.

No bound tornado had ever
done a thing like this before.
As an extra precaution during
the passage of the storm
the mayor ordered the electric
street and other lights extin-
guished in the city for fear
of attracting the electric fire
from the tornado.

As the storm headed for the
Gleason Asylum fresh terrors
continually shook the nervous
population of Gleason of the sorely
tried city. The panic had
not subsided and the multitude
of semi-crazed citizens were
still rushing up and down the
streets and along the harbor
in a useless lookout for
vessels to bear them away
for the distant scene of all
devastation and death where
the more swerved to the
northeast. It seemed as if the
very atmosphere was split
aslet in twain and with

5001 and with a mighty
and most indescribable
roar on enormous whirl-
wind seemed to rip up the
evidence that this territory
territory will be rendered
unfit for habitation from
now on for good for people
weak with constant strain
and mentally unbalanced
for the time being was
extraordinary.

Many it appeared to drive
completely insane and one
man while on this condit-
ion precipitated himself
into the river water directly
into the path of the awful
storm. The unfortunate
creature was taken up by
the storm before he
could be saved.

Other miserable beings
also threw themselves
into the river while still
others wandered about in
utter distraction muttering
an moaning in a heart
breaking monotone.

According to my
opinion a new section
of the storm when
within six hundred yards

4002 seemed to pull up and scatter
a large cone of ground debris
three thousand feet high and
the force of the storm appeared to
be forming a breach in a
part of the ground contour
nine hundred feet long.
It was being formed on the
north side of the contour and
it was feared would completely
overwhelm the fleeing people
of Grand Grandon south of the
storm by the very far flung
debris.

The pessimistic conclusion
of the of those watching the
progress of the storm as much
as the increasing darkness
would permit increased the
pressure brought to bear
on Jennings Berthram to
in order to induce him to
take decisive steps to evacuate
the northwest part of Glasgow
city before the storm turns
down its course and hits
there. (Which it did) The quick
instructions to Berthram interior
Governor of the Contour ordered
to have them leave before
it was too late yet was

500³ not sufficient to satisfy the advocates of evacuation who insisted the city government should forcibly remove every man woman and child from a danger likely to culminate in disaster at any given moment.

Among various agencies that sought to assist the government was the Campagne Transatlantion which was willing to place its antelope service at the cabin disposition but was informed by the agents that very few of the people may be able to escape as the storm was coming too fast.

Since it first showed itself the advancing tempest was in a state of the most violent fury and as it grew constantly more and more threatening the panic grew worse.

Gleason city more and more was showered with everything from the center of ground even clods of mud outside of the storm the sea of clouds,

was in a terrible fury and a fear of the end of the world was in the minds of all, the exodus from that part of the city continued and only those which I have say in writing who defied Heaven and the storm remained defiantly in the danger zone.

That section after all was bypassed yet this storm did some way give plenty of warning of the devastation it was about to work or preparing to work.

The outburst of the storm was accompanied by the most greatest electrical display ever seen thunderstorm came "in earnest"

Before the world had time to realize the extent of the Gleason city disaster humanity received a record shock from the center of ground and the Gleason Orphanage.

That great Asylum like the Angel Guardian Orphanage passed through a baptism of wind horror only less terrible in the number of dead than that which occurred at the angel guardian

5005 The tornado in
colliding with the Gleason
Asylum was to make
history for the destruction
of so mighty a building.
As it approached the
Orphanage an ever dark-
ness spread over the coun-
try.

From Sa Salle where
north side was to be so
terribly devastated later the
cloud of the tornado
was visible, before quar-
ter to five, the terrible
noise within the lowest
part of the surging storm
redoubled in force and
its upper section convulsed
as though it was in the
throes of a terrible agony.

Electrical phenomena
played in the clouds
giving them a weird and
frightful appearance, and
the thunder of the skies
were joined with the
roar of the tornado.

Until the Asylum was
hit the splendid and
frightening phenomena
continued giving thre

5006 who lived in the near
district ample time to make
their escape. Death was every-
where and in its most terrible
forms. Lightning came from the
sky killing many who had
escaped out of the path of
the storm.

In this great tragedy the
settings were wonderful. The
tornado literally rocked the
earth in its agony, such
thunder as never been heard
before rolled through the
heavens. From the timber
came tremendous overwhel-
ming sounds as it rammed
into Asylum Territory. This
joined with the thunder all
emerging in an incessant
roar as it tore away the
Asylum property that added
to the panic in Gleason.

The earth quaked incess-
antly because of the uproar
as the darkness was fully
key and desruption save
when everything was made
light as day by the
lightning which forked out
from the clouds the

5007 destruction of the
orphanage could hardly
be seen. Gleason city shook
and so terrific were the
thunders that it seemed to
the terrified that the universe
was being rent to pieces.
The next morning no
trace of the Orphanage could
be seen or its magnificent
grounds and now most
of the trees, and most
all areas of cultivation
of even the contour
were found to have
been washed out, some actually
buried under volumes
of ^{contour} ground
matter. "Valour and the
Richmond plantations and
contour villages were
gone. The other beau-
tiful plantations nearest
the Asylum were gone.
Everything had disappeared,
If there was a survivor
he was not found, all
vegetation had disappeared.
Not a sprig of green
green was to be seen
on the contour of ground.
Live stock had been

been killed all houses 4008
had vanished. Rivers were
full of floating debris. It
was impossible to proceed to
even the river harbor on
account of the wrecked shipping
and the debris. A hundred and
sixty persons are reported
to have been killed by the
lightning while trying to get
away.

As yet said before on account
of so much floating debris
in the harbor, or even on
land and all roadway,
it was impossible to go
into the interior and even
try to investigate the extent
of the disaster. It was also
impossible to say how many
people of the contour or
of the orphanage had perished
because so many were
blown away to nowhere.
We left Gleason at eight
o'clock on the following
morning to tow a relief
boat to the contour, a
quarter point off Zena
we received a message
from shore by boat
that the passage was absolutely
impassable. Nevertheless we

5009 proceeded on our way, it was dark and very rainy with lightning and thunder - When opposite Deno there was a grand view of the devastation. It was impossible to get close to where the town had been or its territory.

The harbor and river was littered with shattered trees, wreckage of ships and other debris. We attempted to proceed toward Deno through the wreckage but found it impossible, try it, we meant disaster so entered the harbor by another direction but there was the same result, although attended with smaller loss of life than Gleason city & the storm battering Northwestern So. Salle was not less violent than going over the contour.

The length of progress to the Orphanage covered sixteen square miles. From the Asylum

to the city of So. Salle 500⁺ the fact that the loss of life and damage to property in So. Salle were smaller than in Gleason was due to the position of the smaller city and the smaller population of the district the tornado almost side surfing and where inhabitants were giving warning of the approaching disaster and fled for cellars and also basements or sewers in the streets.

All who did not escape were killed or injured and the many injured suffered from fractured skulls caused by falling bricks from ruined buildings. Also the number of injured consisted of a hundred persons whose mangled bodies exhaled fetid odors and whose loathsome turn up faces made even the hospital nurses, doctors and attendants shudder. Though So. Salle did not get it as bad as Gleason city it suffered far worse than Omaha did from the tornado there

5011 The bed of the river (not the stream) gave up the ghost of a wreck that disappeared in the mud never years ago.

The spot has long been pointed out as the grave of a sunken vessel but there was no sign visible to indicate that it was still there.

When the overpowerful winter came and by its unnatural force squeezed the river banks together it forced the wreck from the mud and flung flung it far across the landscape high *** and dry, three long

below case is closed.

We think Secretary Chafee has made the right decision. The we suffered enough and further punishment is not justified. Preferred beatings and the constant threat of death. These men suffered enough. They were held captive for nearly a year. They deserved disciplinary action will be taken. The men of the Pueblo have and properly. He turned down the court martial recommendation.

Nevertheless, we believe Navy Secretary Chafee acted wisely

railroad bridge across the one hundred foot wide river was telecopied

BBM Radio ... 2

by the contracting of 5012 the banks and the river wharf which was a ballast pride now stands a monument to the cyclone's ruthless strength a mangled mass of badly tangled angles.

How in the world could the storm do thus? The railroads were terribly damaged and progress into So Balla was impossible for embankments had been badly cracked, railbeds ripped away and rails spread or ripped up in many places.

The theories of science on convulsions of the atmosphere,

conflict between cold and heat, is generated and an explanation of the sun follows, and sunsets with disaster a terror of the skies. Tornadoes and steam boilers as

5013 illustrations, use
View of the world's
most eminent scientists
concerning the
causes of the
tornado beginning at
the woods near John-
ston town and so on.

The sky like the earth
is subject to constitutional
changes and derangement,
cold air currents and too
much summer heat, and
also too much quick
change in temperature and
weather manifest themselves
in blunders and blizzards
spring rainy spells and violent
windstorms upon the
countryside.

The hot summer heat
of the earth and the
temperature changes of the
atmosphere which are constantly
taking place between heat
and cold in the atmosphere
manifest themselves outwardly
in the form of all kinds
of storms winter snowy
summer and fall and
tornadoes.

In other words a tornado 5014
is something I'd say you don't
see in a dictionary or a prayer
book. To my way of thinking
Scientists have advanced
theories concerning the primary
causes of tornadoes ~~and~~ and
many explanations relating
to the dangerous atmospheric
disturbances discharged from
the conflicting elements are by
hot and cold air.

Like the doctors who disagree
disagree in the diagnosis
of a human malady the
geologists and tornado experts
are equally unable
to agree in all details
concerning this form of the
elements of the upper atmos-
phere.

After all the ones relating to
the cause of tornadoes have
been considered the one that
is most tenable and is
sustained by the largest
number of scientists men
is that which traces tornado
effects back to the old
accepted cause of atmospheric

5016

One form of the tornado downward atmospheric explosion and its simplest form is likewise illustrated in a boiler explosion. Observations of the most violent devastating tornadoes show them to be only like tremendous boiler explosions at a great height above the earth's surface where a great quantity of conflicting atmospheric convulsions has been temporarily imprisoned within the darkest and thickest clouds and suddenly converted into a maelstrom of winds.

In minor tornadoes the presence of unusual vacuum is not so noticeable or such quantities which is simply because the amount of imprisoned convulsive winds was small and the amount of whirling winds generated was only sufficient to expel the storming winds which formed on the dark lower clouds between the cold and hot conflicting air like in steam pipes and therefore are the kind that don't travel very far.

5013 convulsions in the upper atmosphere, only in this way can tornadoes be accounted for.

The youngest student of familiar science knows that heat pushes violently upward by a descending colder current of air generates an upward and outward force, and like all other forces that it follows the path of least resistance.

This force is always present in the disturbed antagonised upper atmosphere of the air among violent thunderstorms which up on hundred and hundreds of yards has been gradually running around much towards the center of the elemental warfare.

When conditions occur by which it can outwardly manifest itself it follows the natural law and descends as the so called "terror" of the skies.

5017) he awful upward
flow of air in the flux
and expelled by the upward
and outward force of the
great suction through the
opening of the lower part
of the funnel is made by
the friction with the earth
which precedes the lower
part of the vacuum.

) the two lines of the
tornadoes courses, one bouncing
off Wintern Gleason and
Orphange for the Gleason
to north from first south
to southwest the other from
which intersected in the
neighborhood and upon the
Contour of ground, made it
follow the course where
the Contour stretched
towards the Orphange
and where the Contour
was weakest and where
great forces of wind
of a measure beyond
comprehension swept the
best part of it all
of the terrific force
of the tornado internal

5018 AV
irreversible suction was sufficient
to cause earth splitting tearing
up winds to be sufficient
enough to cause upward eruption
of ground debris to rush to
the central swirls of the
twister, which was determined
largely by the size and
spread out width of the
cyclonic storm so created
and the amount of vacuum
which found its way up-
ward through them.

The strength of these awful
internal swirl of winds
can only be guessed at
but some idea may be really
formed by their intense
speed from the vacuum
produced by the storm.

Smaller tornadoes may
run fifty or sixty miles
and time by time change
their course across the
open country before be-
ginning to die out and
go back up into the
cloud alone. From this

5019 It will be seen
that the winds are very
much stronger in the
bigger and longer ones
and have force more
greater than are required
merely in the smaller
ones to reduce even a
mere landscape to a swift
off the way part like
the "Sweetie Pie" one did.

From this fact it

will be seen
that the gales
are much more
tougher than other
ordinary tornados
are required
merely to re-
duce the ground
to a cloud of swirling
dust in all directions.
From this fact too
may be seen the
instantaneous action
by which the winds
swirling upwards into
tornados heart is
converted into a most
irreversible suction and

ALDERMAN GEO B MCCUTCHEON
RM 201, CITY HALL
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

5020
a tremendous explosion
as power is generated.
The calamity which befell
the seven cities from
Johnston to Gainesville Ill.
and the Convent and Orphanages
and the supermarket will
unquestionably will lead to
a fresh discussion of the
causes of tornado disturbances
of this kind.

Not all of the strange
phenomena involved therein
of the protruding tornado tongue
and belly bursting cloud, are
yet fully understood, and
concerning all of them, there
are perceptible differences of
opinion among experts and
high rank scientists.

On at last one point
however there is general ag-
reement

At a certain section of
the thickest of clouds the
internal convulsions of the
storm was probably great
enough to make conditions
of the storm go wild beyond
comparisons of other storms.
The colder air coming down
might have encountered heat
that was too intense and
therefore the freak explosion

5021 of the funnel force-
wing itself through the
cloud belly of the strangling
child cloud tore up first the
woods and destroy every
known substance.

If all of Johnstown
been enveloped there would
be no Johnstown today.

Confinement of an over
strong vacuum like this
one had could have kept
the twister in some sort
of a rigid condition by the
speed of the whirl which
went frantic and uncontroll-
able in the center yet an
avenue of escape of the
uprush of heated air
was opened up there for
the belly part was like
a volcanic explosion.

This caused the tornado
to become very overstrong
for a storm of its kind.

There is a growing
tendency, moreover to
recognize the importance
of gravitation of pulling
down twisters.

Yet the strength of
this twister was truly
inconceivable and it

compelled the storm 5022
to have an lower onrushing
wind speed of the suction
that might have had the
speed as that man predic-
ed. This aint meant the
forward speed of the twister.

It was meant the pull
of the suction within the
lower part of the storm sweep-
sweeping lengthwise along
the ground.

All tornadoes has this long
slant. If they stood straight
up from the ground they
would have no pull.
At least so it is stated
by scientists.

Even it is said Russell
Gilbert, volcanic scientist,
and some other authorities
also regard this on such
twisters as the chief agent
of the slantwise suction
in tornadoes, at least
when there is an overwhelm-

ing out pouring of very
unusual strong winds.

The tornado winds are
called its convulsions
and agonizing upsets.

5023 As to the extent of which sudden cold unto heat operates a terrific conflict between the two there is no lack of any harmony among tornado experts. Thelon Rule and others though volcanists are experts on whirling storms also as it is said and they hold that cold and heat largely if not entirely responsible for the trouble than too much moisture.

62. Remember it is claimed by many that this tornado formed on the rear of the first passing thunder storm and then got between and they point to the fact than many tornados form independently of themselves in the paths of at least resstant and dont travel far.

But this one didn't. This one though forming from the rear of a great thunderstorm was situated between two of them near the second approaching one from the west where between

5024
and
former
years
were
that
are
other
at the
occasional
it, the
torn
the
most
ance
during
of
tiny
part

lock
but
ely

5024

than a likely conflict
between opposing currents of cold and
hot would occur. You must know
also that the twister came from
the rear of an unusually long severe
thunderstorm the likes of which were
never seen before.

They point to the fact that
twisters forming between storms are
the most dangerous. Russell on the other
hand regard hot and cold matter as
the vital factor but as an occasional
though important reinforcement. He
suspects when the air pockets
formed between ~~the~~ ^{the} two ~~storms~~ ^{places} the
conflicting upwings an current
to rise to a considerable distance
in encountering the conflicting
air, perhaps in a succession of
was then suddenly and most
fiercely generated.

The explosive effects which
enized were of two kinds. By
the expansion of the moisture
which the air pockets contains.
The latter by flashes of lightning
reduced to overpowering storm.

5025 like big clouds of 2 and 3
or gun cotton of powder and exploding
thus originate the enormous
force of the storm, and usually the
strange shrouds which the wild
storm ejects around its reef and
is suddenly,

Shocks of greater or less violence
are also produced by the
speed and more of its mighty
whirl, the less severe ones and
which don't travel far no doubt
sound like humming or hissing
and do not give rise to
tremors of both earth and
air like the mightier ones.

Yet in extreme cases
enough force is developed to
rend the very atmosphere itself.
This is the case of the Chester-
brain horror which is respons-
ible for its pandemonium being
heard so far.

It was not the wreckage
that made the turmoil it was
the storm itself. Russell attrib-
utes the blowing out of the
child clouds belly to the vacuum
of the tornado forcing itself
out in its descent for the
ground. The culminating

episode of the storm's 5026
explosive force lie growing at the
woods although not resulting so
disastrous as of the "contaminated ground"
would seem to be due to the
same immediate cause. To this very
particular explosive, where
too it seems safe to assign
a force which never the terrible
maelstrom called the "mosque off
the coast of Norway cannot one third
match.

It is said tornados at sea has
caused tidal waves.

The precise manner in which
the flux and reflux make the
funnel gets access to the ground
like an enormous suction tube or
blowpipe is not entirely clear.

Nevertheless it is possible to get
some light on the matter.

It is now well known that
in many parts of the upper
portion of the storm cloud there
could be too much moisture,
especially if the turbines form
between two wild thunderstorms.

The resistance of a chain
of ruined towns from John
ston to Jane will suggest
the probability that the storm

5027 followed freakishly on
a straight bee line course
of great antiquity though the issue
of its unusually strong winds
may have been limited on
a few isolated points.

Just how the storm took
a straight course unknown
of tornadoes before is one of
the most difficult questions
still left for investigation. In
fact it bee lured all the
way to the atlantic.

Given a line of weak-
ness in its path though and
a susceptibility to fresh speed
is afforded, if it had zigzagged
through more towns than
those would have been ruined.
It barely missed Hubb and
woods.

Professor McGee suggests
that the overloading of the
thunderstorms of moisture by
moisture laden winds may
have been the immediate
exciting cause of the
recent out break. Other great
geologists
similar
have found a
explanation acceptable

in the case of the 5028
storm not going elsewhere,
the thing has much to com-
mend it to disfavor, for
the Chester Brown disaster has
already drawn from geologists
and tornado experts many expresses
of opinion and explanations
of tornado phenomena which set
forth in detail the causes and
effects of tornado devastation
in particular and its connec-
tions in general.

Doctor J R Crook a professor
on North western University
has made not only a
special study of volcanoes
but it is said of tornadoes
also. He has made an
ascent of the two highest
in the world and has
climbed many others for
purposes of study.

Though he is an authority
upon volcanography he also
is an authority on all violent
storms. But he said:

"Though I'm an expert on clim-
bing volcanoes I can't climb
a tornado."

5029 There are two great
territories of tornadoes in
the central part of the
United States Illinois Kansas
and others other states
Illinois takes the lead
said Professor Crook. also
one point is northern and
southern Illinois extending
across Indiana and
down through Ohio the
other in the northern
states, including the
Dakotas.

These cyclone alleys
intersect at all points
only west of the Rockies
they're not much seen.

One of them is northern
Illinois which include
the Chester Brown belt the
scene of the most terrible
disaster the world has
ever seen. the other is
Omaha and St Louis
and Kansas City. But in
northern Ill as the

terrible "Screaming Pies" of 5030
is just at these points of
intersection of the worst tornado
states that we expect unusual
tornado activity and it is
there that we find it.

There has been more or
less theorizing as to tornado
disturbance moving in
cycles but it cannot be
proved.

One fact is established
and that is that a tornado
is a "boiler explosion" in
the air caused by cold wind
coming in contact with
overheated air over the surface
of the ground This is proved
by the great column clouds
that accompany the storm's
violent action.

The old theory that the
very center of this storm
is without air actual reacts
in tube on wind tunnel
he says is no longer held.

5031. He asserts the latest idea is that the center of the tornado is more like a monstrous wind tunnel though maybe more fierce than the biggest whirlpool would be. About this there is more or less explosive force than a million sticks of dynamite exploding at once. This "Sweetie Pie" by its most immeasurable force and strength of air has caused the surface of the contour of land to rise to even 700' and form what the witnessess call wrinkling.

* When cold air comes in contact with overheated atmosphere an explosion in the air follows that finds its outlet in the big clouds above through the places where there least resistance.

and the result is a 5332 terrific tornado. There is no part of the whole United States which is exempt from tornadoes except in the region of the western and eastern mountains," said Professor Crook "and there is no regularity in their actual appearance.

The form and hit at random and even the whirlpool off the Northwest coast of Norway can match their strength or suction power or whirl so fast. Tornadoic disturbances are always by the vibration their suction force causes preceded by local earth shaking some where distant from them.

The "Sweetie pie" shook the city of Morris in which many people were scared into the streets. It was no earthquake but the results of the storms awful vibration along the ground and through Chester Brown,

5033 as it is impossible to predict ~~or~~ tell when the next will take place, it is also impossible to tell where it will be. It will certainly be somewhere in the line of least resistance.

and the most worst one will form in a thunderstorm or between, all this is of interest as showing that the atmosphere is still in the most radical condition or "getting worse" just as much as it was from the time of the earth's beginning.

We see the same thing in hurricanes, in them most decided changes takes place but they're nothing fury compared to a tornado. With references to contributions of science which might be expected from investigations at Chesterham and other dev-
arted places from Johnston to Janeville Professor

Cook said:

"Even new elements might be discovered, and atmospheric theories either confirmed or disproved, also in its speedy whirl a tornado always throws off in all directions a great variety of debris of all sorts and such turns up so that later they'll fall from the sky over a wide expanse of territory."

This "Sweetie Pie" surely did and how. As far as Joliet north and Bloomingdale South, people were surprise by everything to think of falling from the sky, even sides of houses.

The danger of living in a proximity in a cyclone territory is well known but the iron oxides render the Illinois soil extremely fertile - this is seen in all Illinois. It is seen also in the western middle states where so many farms and plantations are.

Owing to the way so many people live so moderately thence about every which way it is

5034

5035 probable, that many of the victims from city to city were mangled crushed mutilated or bodies broken in many ways - and so died horribly or were totally crippled for life. It is indeed the most horrible disaster the world has ever seen, and one which we may well pray not to see duplicated.

Science however has no means of knowing that it may not occur again."

Professor Robert T. Hill of the United States Geological Survey who visited the Chester Brown horror on a tour of inspection and observation says:-

Across the northern part of the State of Illinois and also southern Wisconsin extends a tornado belt of the worst kind and it is a chain of violent storms of other kinds too winter or summer which

one really cyclones in 5036 are making with dangerous winds banked up even ready to break forth at some unexpeded and inopportune moment and strike randomly. Tornadoes and even great hurricanes are still the most inexplicable and profound problems which defy the power of geologists and all scientists to explain, and one of their most singular peculiarities is the fact that they sometimes break forth simultaneously in widely distant portions of this nation.

And strangely too most of them go down and stretch down from the rear of the black cloud, seldom from the center or front. A sympathetic relation of this kind has been known between this one at Chester Brown and Omaha and it is very probable that these two tornado have had some sympathetic relations with severe tornadoes before them as they raged furiously also but only desirous long places especially at Omaha and La Salle when they took on only the edges of these cities.

5037 Chester Brown and others were devastated their whole width and length. At the time of the atmospheric explosion of the atmosphere it was said other twisters preceded or followed it in northern Illinois and Kansas and one hit Terre Haute in Indiana.

The outburst of "Sweetie Pie" was ravaged the cities from Johnstontown to Galesville is apparently the culmination of a number of tornado disasters which have been unusually severe in the past three years. Omaha in Easter March 23rd was badly torn up in its west section with a known loss of 150 persons killed and \$12,000,000 property loss while dozens of other places were destroyed by the same hurricane.

Poor Ralston took the first blow and was nearly destroyed by fire, but was saved by a cloud burst of rain which followed the cyclone.

Only a few days before the Chester Brown holocaust the cities of central Illinois

were swept by tremendous 5038 thunderstorms of record breaking fury, and these thunderstorms were more severe than ever seen before and had dangerous wind squalls. Professor H. A. Shaler of Harvard University a world authority not only on volcanic disturbances, but also storms of exceeding violence says:

Tornado outbreaks are merely the atmospheric explosions of cold and hot air meeting too violently like steam under high pressure steam which is bound on rocks buried underneath the surface of the earth and there subjected to such tremendous heat that when up energy breaks forth and it shatters its stone person walls unto dust.

The same condition can be formed by too much pressure of the cold air onto hot air. The air explodes onto dangerously fierce winds, and you've got your tornado.

The common belief that during unusual warm day in early spring, or too much hot weather in summer, summer heat colder air enters the warm area too sudden for its own good.

5038 during the air pocket period during violent changes in the weather and that there colder air currents through the natural action off too much moisture and electrical disturbances had become agitated by the violent changes and below there violent storms.

Here the cumulo clouds above form becoming bigger and thicker under masses of like canopies of other layers of of storm clouds which are constantly higher being hurled up of the by the upward flux forming storm, This blanketing process is called the process.

When the upper layer has reached its usual thickness of a few thousand feet the clouds which contain the most moisture are subjected to a severe downward and upward motion, with increases to a terrific commotion

The downward motion generates a whirlpool of air which is held in a state of high ful tension in its central flux and reflux.

It is at these moments 5039 that terrific tornadoes occur. The reverberation in the lower layers of the black cloud, mostly from the rear the pressure is removed and the compressed air explodes with tremendous force.

The revolving of clouds containing the overwhelming amount of moisture and overcharged electricity are blown into Kingdom come, houses of brick are blown into dust, which sometimes is carried so high by the unmeasurable suction as to almost escape the power of the earth attraction and float across the sky and come down as a dust storm. After the atmospheric explosion have occurred the funnel comes down.

This is merely a wind but is something like a wind sucking tunnel that could probably tear its way through the center of a hurricane if it could hit it admidships.

But the explosion always forecloses the wind and one will notice that after such a "Sweetie Pie" has past a torrent of all sorts of debris may fall from the sky over a wide territory for hours.

5040

Professor W. F. McGee of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington says:

"It may be that a violent storm like the Chester Brown tornado had some strange vicious mysterious elemental disturbance before the twister came or after the first thunderstorm came but it does not necessarily follow that the two travel together."

Often times there are very unusually severe thunderstorms with no apparent accompaniment of no twisters at all."

But this could not be true of the Chester Brown calamity.

Tornadoes are caused by mysterious disturbances in the interior of the rear storm, or by local by themselves in the interior of its own cloud."

The most commonly accepted belief of Steel Sweetie Pees' unnatural fury that massive severe storm clouds renewed on the rear of the worst thunderstorm

5041

that had ever occurred and these clouds became dangerously and most wildly disturbed by a current of colder air descending into lower warmer layers of air between the two thunderstorms which is a very dangerous thing to do.

If the space between the two storms was not wide enough for the warmer air to spread, then the colder air go too far down, the warm air becomes severely disturbed from one cause or another and therefore is shoved upwards far faster than it should ever go, it cannot widen out, then it turns into a violent flux, and then is overcome by the descending reflux, with the result that the disturbance becomes like an whirling electric dynamo or motor and you've got your tornado.

Probably the most violent tornado in history is this one at Chester Brown. It formed between two of the most severe and longest lasting

5042 thunderstorms on all record. The explosive roar could be heard farther than it sounds and the tremors of the ground could be felt for half that distance, and the noise was not caused by what the storm was doing to all the buildings.

It was the racket of the storm itself. This is going to be investigated. The air was filled with particles of all sorts of debris for many days afterward especially also dust.

Strange air waves following the uproar are believed to have passed two or three and one-half times around the center and otherwise around the whole United States. It vibrated with alarming vehemence windows as far as Chicago, Gary, Indiana, and other places east, south and west the same distance as Chicago.

Curiously however no windows were cracked or broken. It is said the vibrations of the uproar shook and swayed the branches

of the trees in the Alley and Lincoln Park like on a windy day for hours, and there was not the slightest breeze at the time. The face of the land in all its path was completely changed. What made it roar so? This will be really investigated if possible."

Dr. D. Otis Harvey professor in the Museum of Natural History, New York (not cork) offers the following explanation of the Chesterbrook disaster, beginning at Johnstown where fifteen hundred students of the Eng. Brigg's Skinner school which was wiped out, had to walk miles to recover scattered books says:

"This tornado was similar in cause and effect to a big Robson volcanic eruption.

It is now the accepted belief of sudden introduction of cold air into the heated belt acted as the pouring of water into a red hot boiler.

It causes a great volume of steam which must by all means have an outlet.

You could readily see how the cold air current could get two thunderstorms

located as there were
5044 near Johnstonstown and
not far from the horribly
devasted woods ten miles
southwest of Johnstonstown. The
severely devastated cities streets
stretched from southwest to
northeast at this section, such
traveling by the (twister) tornado
without swerving off its course
here and there caused a reverent
terror of its suction wind
pipe which evidently caused
its prodigious strength.

For this result it is
hard to imagine what
the result was to be.

No tornado ever made a bee
line before, and all theories
and investigations have brought
no results whatever. It is a
mystery very difficult to even
try to solve. There are two
classes of tornadoes, those which
are six to eight blocks or
more than a mile which
have explosive force in
its winds more powerful
than a million sticks of
dynamite exploding all at
once, the others much
more narrower and less
duration but equally as
destructive. There is no such

thing as a weaker or 5045
stronger tornado. What they do is
comparing the size of the places
they hit. The bigger the place
the greater the destruction
and the more the loss of
life. It is the explosive eruptive
force of the tornado's blowpipe
which brings such widespread
destruction as this and it is very
astonishing to learn of the tremendous
power a tornado like this one
unleashed.

Professor John Milne of London
the highest authority in the world
on volcanic explosions and
also tornado disturbances classifies
tornadoes into two classes:

Those that build up and
destroy very slowly. Those that
volcanos most rapidly. Bad
volcanos are very dangerous,
especially the explosive kind
but they never did any
devastation as the tornado.

The wider twisters with
the longest funnels are the
most dangerous to cities towns
human life and like this
Chortebrown horror the very
physical face of a country
side or low hill.

Storms that build up
winds storms are periodical

5046 upward wellings of clouds comparatively harmless. But this in this building up which may cover a few hours natural storm clouds become (convoluted) convoluted and the downward rush of cold air must eventually overpower the warmer air and most violently push it up in a convoluted condition and throw it aside.

Sooner or later they must burst forth then the terrible disasters of the second class takes place. Like the belly bursting cloud it is the same cause that makes a boiler burst.

Professor Meleno was asked after the Chesterbrown performance:-

"Is it likely that there will be tornadoes in this country at present that mostly have missed towns villages and cities for a long time but will one day or another blow a town away?"

"It is almost certain there will be one"

"Some in Illinois?"

"Many in Illinois"

"Some even in this part

"Illinois?"

"Undoubtedly"

The awful Chesterbrown wind blast has verified the eminent authority's word.

Professor Angelo Heilprin of Philadelphia, the eminent Geologist and authority on both volcanology and tornadology declares there is danger that all seven cities will be totally abandoned for good, especially Chesterbrown Chester Chase and Greenville from the effects of this most violent atmospheric disturbance which recently had been in progress.

More than that he says the Illinois river route is in danger because of the devastation of the Conesus grounds and both were in the tornado course.

"In my (opinion) opinion the tornado disturbances are more the only thing in this country to be so feared" he continued "I believe tornadoes in this country have far worse force than tornado at sea. It is altogether likely that the tornado disturbance that had occurred may result in the collapse of the river banks."

5047

5045 The strange formation
of this extraordinary twister
you must know means that
the suction hole had reached
a great size that when was
in the biggest cloud above
being also made as it were
above the bosom of the murr
clouds.

When the upper part of
this hole reaches a great
size that which is above
will be without proper
support and then subsidence
must follow and a funnel
furious and savage comes
down to the ground.

The tornadoes of Kansas
Missouri and southern Illinois
and of northern Ill. and
other spots form at random
in a region of extreme
atmospheric agitation and bad
conditions, which has their
parallel in Oklahoma Texas
Arkansas and other southern
States and on the opposite
of Tennessee, Oklahoma and
Arkansas in that territory
seems to get the worst ones.
When it hits a town there
there is no more town.

5049 The Central American Region
of weakness against tornadoes
extends eastward across Kansas
and Southern Illinois onto
Southern Indiana proper, where
also there have been some
of the worse ones on record.

At times Kansas City has
been devastated and other
places.

The same region of weakness
against these violent storms
include nearly the whole
central part of the United
States, and it should be no
surprise to have some of
them burst out at Alton
Springfield and Lincoln Ill
with the same vigor and
intensity as "St. Louis Riot" though
they have been safe so far as none had
yet been hit.

The National Geography Society
Society sent three Geographers
to make a special study of
the disaster at Chesterburn, es-
of the convent there and the
Angel Guardian Orphans also
of the Super market they
were in were still living
Professor Robert H. D. of the
Geological Survey, Professor
Israel C. Russell of Ann Arbor

5050 Mich. and C. E. Borochewski
the noted Antarctic explorer,
Professor Flory after a careful
examination of the desolated area
related important scientific
phases of the great tornado.

Speaking first of the work
of his companions and himself
in Chesterbrown he said:-

"Collection of data concern-
ing the awful tornado that
struck Chesterbrown has immedi-
ately begun. The history of
this immeasurable calamity is
practically in the same as
the mighty one that devast-
ated Omaha on March 23 on
a Sunday afternoon.

It was Easter. A great thunder-
storm occurred on the evening of
August 24th and until noon
the 15th, it formed on the
rear of this gigantic storm and
as the storm moved forward
more than a mile a minute
the tornado had to go forward
as fast as its parent storm.

At least one resident near
Chesterbrown several months
ago predicted that seven
cities of middle North Illinois
would be wiped out by
some kind of most violent
storm.

Finally on the afternoon 5:05
of the great tornado its awful
swirl spread the devastation
of Chesterbrown in all directions.
Large portions of the debris
(caught upward by the huge
shroud) having reached the
upper current of the immense
whirl was hurled around and
around and flung wildly every-
where, the falling was again
divided and the debris were
swept by the lower winds of
the whirling back upon the
eastward section of the City of
Chesterbrown.

What is left of the wrecked
houses show this. The windows
on the side towards the
storm being ("unaffected") unaffected
while those on the farther
side were wrecked by the back
draught of the vacuum. There was
no wind on the morning
of the coming afternoon outburst
a fact which facilitated the
devastation of the city. The
back draught of vacuum threw
the storm with such appalling
fury at the Convent, Angel
Guardian Orphanage and so on.
There places were overwhelmed
by a storm of horrible fury and
fury with which struck with
fearful rapidity.

5052 I really believe
the focus of the beginning
of the annihilation of the seven
small cities was the belly
bursting cloud midway between
the woods and Johnstonstown.

The devastation of the woods,
fort and Johnstonstown as said
before was the belly-blown
buster.

The strange unmeasurable
explosion of wind had the
greatest superficial force ever
encountered, acting in radial
directions from the child
clouds belly as is evidenced
by the dismounting and carry-
ing for miles the guns in
the battery on a hillside
south west of the woods on
an upper part of the hill-
itself, and an enormous
stated statue the Mother
and Christ Child in the same
locality and also by the
ruined condition of the hill
side, something unbelievable.

It is said the noise
was like the shooting of
thousands of cannons at
once, less than a minute
afterwards the most fearful
tempest of wind was destroying
those beautiful

woods and headed hell bound for Johnstonstown. 45-
according to dozens of persons 505-3
their testimony of all there was
an accompanying flame from
the bursting cloud belly, this
must be investigated if it is
possible. Others think the incan-
cerent flash of electricity and
the force of the sudden most
inevitable wind were sufficient to
cause the destruction. I am now following
the nature of this."

Professor Hell Tullton Jones
saw the calamity when he
went to visit his father and
mother and his sister at
Bunnybury on August 13 1913
and returned to Sa Salle
Friday (feast) 16 nearly ex-
hausted. Professor Jones was
near the scene on August 15-
Assumption ~~Monday~~ or Sunday
nearly exhausted and terrified.

Professor Jones was near the
path of the buster when it
terminated the long and long
section of Bunnybury, during its
mad rush through and was
able to describe the tornado
devastation from close observation.

Speaking personally of his
experience he said:
"In attempt to examine the tornado,

5054

curve was futile
because of intense darkness,
I succeeded however in getting
as close as I dared, though it
was a dangerous risk. At
fourthly that afternoon I
witnessed as much as the
darkness would permit a most
terrible storm I ever thought
could have raged and noted
the accompanying phenomena dark as
it got.

While this storm raged
so wildly no sane man
should have waited to find
some underground shelter.
Basements didn't help usually
as the tuner was actually
pulling the foundations out
of the ground.

Following the steady deaf-
ening roar of the storm
strange gigantic rush-roam
shaped columns of something
I couldn't guess what ascended
in the main cloud above
near the round like
shape and then spread on
a vast block convulsed.
canopy overhead and moving
rapidly.

I through this sheet mud
and most awful flashes

of lightning appeared with 5055
alarming frequency. This was
the thunder, this is indisputable
evidence of too much electrical
disturbance in the storm, this was
most important observation and
explains in parts the most awful
catastrophe going on then.

I do not hesitate to acknowledge
I was terrified. The
storm was gone after raging
something over a minute.
All the strange outbreaks of
this storm are new to science
and have not been explained.
The storm was still raging on
its way northeast and I could not
make any prediction where it
was going and what it was
to do. Later heard Chester Brown
was wiped out so far as we
know the tornado that began the
destruction from its starting place
to Granville and then across the
rest of the country is not only the
strangest on record but one of
the most remarkable and
terrible.

It was accompanied by cloud
bursts it upheaved by its
blowpipe suction a district of
several hundred leagues in
length and caused a slight
subsidence of a tract of land

1056 not less extensive
altering the whole system
of small streams and the
level of the soil. Some
suction it had, nothing
nothing could be more
succinct or less than this
description of the record
breaking catastrophe.

This was like a sudden
volcanic eruption of wind
coming down from the sky,
which destroyed the whole
length of Chester brown in
more than twenty eight
minutes.

At the time of this
convulsion of the atmospheric
disturbance in northern
Illinois a vast tract of
landscape or country com-
prising the seven small
cities and some land
beyond was violently
shaken and overturned by
the violence of the suction
and vibrating uproar

of the low fields
covered valley of the
Illinois River all of it
between the seven cities

with be awful scattered 1057
woods its cultivated fields
and its broad river the Mac-
Molia was slightly upheaved
by the immeasurable irresistible
suction. also there was some
break up of the bed of the
stream.

When after this most astonishing
almost unbelievable disaster,
the inhabitants of neighbouring
regions came to visit the scene
of it, they found the whole
aspect of the district altered,
the cities blasted as if from
explosions from both the
underground and sky. The
cities had ceased to exist
and an immense sheet of
fire scattered debris covered
the space which they once
occupied.

Big long bridges believed
to be strong enough to
resist all hell are no
has been and rail beds
of the railroads are gone.

Beyond this stretch of
scattered wreckage to the
northeast of Chester brown
Chester brown has almost
disappeared. The whole length

5058 of country was covered with debris and household furniture ~~houses~~ of all sorts of production, all the cultivated fields the hamlets and villages had been involved in the cataclysm.

The record of this most greatest of catastrophes is going to be preserved not only by scripture by the living and spoken traditions of all our country and George Strabo factor of the University at Port Royal relating how crazily the storm was formed in the sky during the terrible shock between the two thunderstorms and how most of populous cities towns villages and even parts of landscape were swallowed up into the clouds and scattered over the skies to come down as rain nearly every where.

But if popular tradition were ever to be lost or forgotten and by the writings of our famous

authors were fitter to be left 5059 the very aspect of the country and what is left of the cities would suffice to show that all had suffered from some most terrible atmospheric commotion.

700 let before five years are passed there will be in the libraries of the very world more than 2000 works bearing of this unusual tornado disaster.

The phenomena will be taken out quite but of the realm realm of superstition. We have in this country delicate instruments of various kinds called seismometers which trace the direction of earth movements and so on and their force gauged while by means of a simple magnet with a metal piece attached to it an earthquake can be foretold.

700 instruments tell us that scarcely a day goes without an earthquake, in some portion of the earth, the tremor internal causes of those manifestations are ever active what ever the cause may be. But the question is how in the world did the up roar of the storm affect and upset them so violently when the noise was in the air? or was it caused by the violent vibration on both the air and surface of the ground by the noise?

That is a mystery hard to solve and I will tell what I and my mother and my family saw.

I was at that at some weeding my garden at about quarter to four in the afternoon. My little girl Jane suddenly cried out "Morning cloud Rakes" I took at that awful cloud Rakes

I observed the cloud which seemed of unusual shape and also dimensions I stood up and distinctly marked this very uncommon appearance.

At first I could not perceive at that distance from what direction the cloud moved but it was afterward ascertained

5060 to proceed from the southwest I could not describe its figure than by comparing it to a very wide shroud appearing and extended itself to a great height to the bosom of an enormous black cloud across the sky whose center was in the most frightful agitations.

The shroud itself especially in the center was in the most terrible convulsions.

"I yelled to my wife, "Thank God we're not in its path, to a tornado"

Darkness was rapidly coming, the buildings all around us trembled and windows vibrated from the concussion caused by the uproar and though we stood upon open ground we feared we could not have remained without certain and formidable should it chance its course and we therefore resolve to

- = $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ * - + -

immediately to quit the 5061 town, a lot of people followed us in a panic and alarm and as to a mind distracted with terror every suggestion seemed more prudent than its own pressed in great crowds about us in our way out.

As soon as we had reached a convenient distance from the houses we stood still in the midst of a perilous and most dreadful scene. Our farm wagons which we had ordered drawn out from our barn

wouldn't be pulled any further by the horses because of their violent oscillation and oscillated so violently from the storm concussion though upon level ground that we could not keep them steady even by supporting them with the heavy load they had.

Some vibration from the storm concussion,

The very river seemed to roll back upon itself

~~5062~~⁵⁰⁶³ and to be driven from its strands by the storms awful convulsives throes it is certain that its shores were torn so much as to be enlarged. On the southwest a black and most terrible looking shroud with an ingeneous serpentine vapor darted out like a long train of fire resembling but much larger than the flashes of lightning.

I soon after the black cloud seemed to descend and enshroud the whole country as we breath it entirely concealed all the farmlands and the city of Bumbybury. Debris small and large from houses began to fall upon us though in no considerable quantity.

Turning my head I
perceived behind us a dense
cloud which came rolling
in our track like a wind swept
torrent of dust and gravel.
proposed while there was yet
some light to diverge from
the high road lest my mother

ORDER INVOICE

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LN	SHIPPED	ORDERED	CODE	ITEMS	AMOUNT	LN	SHIPPED	ORDERED	CODE	ITEMS
1	1000	54 Regular C.C.		5103	54 Tuya Pretzels	107	1020	10 A. B.B. O. C.C.	109	5210 10 Tuya Pretzel
2	1011	10 A. Regular C.C.		108	108 10 Tuya Pretzel	5010	1030-23	23 A. Regular C.C.	110	5265 39 A. Ring
3	1008-33	33 A. Regular C.C.		111	5260 39 A. Nipple	5050	1008-33	33 A. Regular C.C.	112	5160 39 A. Nipple
4	1030-23	23 A. Regular C.C.		110	5265 39 A. Ring	5265	1040-33	33 A. King Size C.C.	113	5160 39 A. Nipple
5	1040-33	33 A. King Size C.C.		114	5250 39 A. Tuya	5250	1041-33	33 A. King Size C.C.	114	5160 39 A. Nipple
6	1045-33	33 A. B.B. O. C.C.		115	5255 Roads	5255	1060-53	53 A. Round C.C.	117	5044 39 A. Bavorolos
7	1041-33	33 A. King Size C.C.		116	5257 39 A. Snack Size	5257	1061-53	53 A. King Size C.C.	117	5090 4 A. LB. Caddy Tuya
8	1045-33	33 A. B.B. O. C.C.		115	5268 39 A. Snack Size	5268	1063-53	53 A. Round C.C.	118	5080 4 A. LB. Box Twister
9	1044-33	33 A. Round C.C.		116	5250 39 A. Tuya	5250	1071-63	63 A. Reg. C.C.	119	5080 4 A. LB. Caddy Tuya
10	1060-53	53 A. Round C.C.		117	5090 39 A. Snack Size	5090	1061-53	53 A. King Size C.C.	117	5044 39 A. Bavorolos
11	1061-53	53 A. King Size C.C.		118	5080 4 A. LB. Box Twister	5080	1071-63	63 A. Reg. C.C.	119	5190 7 A. LB. Caddy Size
12	1063-53	53 A. Round C.C.		117	5090 39 A. Snack Size	5090	1063-53	53 A. King Size C.C.	118	5190 7 A. LB. Box Twister
13	1071-63	63 A. Reg. C.C.		119	5080 4 A. LB. Caddy Tuya	5080	1073-63	63 A. King Size C.C.	120	5280 7 A. LB. Caddy Size
14	1073-63	63 A. King Size C.C.		121	5190 7 A. LB. Box Twister	5190	1073-63	63 A. King Size C.C.	121	5280 7 A. LB. Caddy Size
15	1010	Concessions C.C.		122	5285 7 A. LB. Caddy Size	5285	1073-63	63 A. King Size C.C.	122	5285 7 A. LB. Caddy Size
16	1085	10 Dog C.C.		123	5206 Concessions	5206	1085	10 Dog C.C.	123	5206 Concessions
17				124			17			
18				125			18			
19				126			19			
20				127			20			
21				128			21	2200	5 A. Regular P.C.	7000 5 A. Virginini Nuts
22				129			22	2211	10 A. Regular	7042 10 A. Virginini
23				130			23	2211-50	10 A. Reg. F/L P.C.	7031 10 A. Virginini
24				131			24	2211-50	10 A. B.B.Q. I.M.P.C.	7035 10 A. Conchaw
25				132			25	2215	10 A. B.B. O.	7033 10 A. Pisticchio
26				133			26	2215-50	10 A. B.B.Q. I.M.P.C.	7034 10 A. Royal Milk
27				134			27	2217	10 A. O/G.	7040 10 A. S. L. Shelli
28				135			28	2218	10 A. Gram On.	7040-20 10 A. S. IN S. Nuts
29				136			29	2912-10	10 A. Shoestring	7042-40 10 A. Spun Nuts
30				137			30	2912-70	10 A. Bulk S.S.	7043 10 A. Redstems
31				138			31	2951	25 A. Shoestring	7074 25 A. Spinach
32				139			32	2913	10 A. Shoestring (18 BG.)	7075 25 A. S. L. Shelli
33				140			33	2951	25 A. Shoestring	7075 25 A. Dry Roads
34				141			34	2225	25 A. B.B. O.	7091 29 A. Virginini
35				142			35	2226	25 A. O/G.	7108 29 A. Redskins
36				143			36	2226	25 A. B.B. Q.	7109 29 A. Pisticchio
37				144			37	2224	25 A. G/O.	7129 39 A. Spanish
38				145			38	2228	25 A. Regular	7129 39 A. Virginini
39				146			39	2229	25 A. B.B. Q.	7107 39 A. Virginini
40				147			40	2230	25 A. Green On.	7123 39 A. Peccan
41				148			41	2230	25 A. Green On.	7124 39 A. Walnut
42				149			42	2208	33 A. 6 Pack	7125 39 A. Eng. Walnut
43				150			43	2240	39 A. Regular	7121 49 A. Conchaw
44				151			44	2245	39 A. B.B. Q.	7171 49 A. Caschw
45				152			45	2244	39 A. Green On.	7165 49 A. Royal Milk
46				153			46	2258	55 A. Special	7166 49 A. Virginini
47				154			47	2261	59 A. 12 Oz. Box	7025 10 A. Baer Nuts
48				155			48	2263	59 A. 10 Oz. Box	7024 10 A. Cashew Box
49				156			49	2282	11 lb.	7025 10 A. Baer Nuts
50				157			50	2273	69 A. Regular	7025 10 A. Baer Nuts
51				158			51	2285	11 A. 16. Box	7024 10 A. Baer Nuts
52				159			52	2294	31 A. 16. Box	7024 10 A. Baer Nuts
53				160			53	2290	31 A. 16. Con	7025 10 A. Baer Nuts
54				161			54			55

5063 wife of father and children
should be crushed to death in the
dark by what might be in that.

awful cloud, scarcely had we step-
ped aside when darkness overspread
us like midnight, and a heavy
shower of debris fell upon us
but did not harm us as the
substance was light in weight
and small,

we almost imagined that the
last eternal night was come which
should destroy the world and all
of us together, or I know what?
had seen it is impossible to
exaggerate the horrors of that
ill fated Sunday afternoon, the
terrible noise of the storm the
dense obscurity and murky
shadows of the skies above the
long heavy roll of the convul-
sed wide shroud the strident
noise of the clouds of flying
debris the awful blinding flashes
of lightning relieved the black-
ness only to make it much
ghastlier than before the fall
on showers of debris which
descended like rain, the clash

5064
and fury of meeting rocks
and stones hurled together
by the violence of the winds houses
flying to pieces, the flinging
here and there of the victims of
the storm and wreckage driving
through the darkened streets and
swirling through the public grounds
all these things must have
combined into a whole of such
of such unusual and such awful
terror that the imagination
cannot adequately realize any
of it, no stoutest heart was appalled
and none we must be sure who
were not on its path, who on
it even but survived the
shock will ever forget the
ights and scenes they had
witnessed on that day of awful
alarm

more than a minute and
journy seconds were thus endured
with all the anguish of suspense
and uncertainty and for the
rest of the dead day the dark-
ness did not clear away and
two hours later another unusually
severe thunderstorm set in with
its extraordinary cloudburst

5-064. Cloud burst next day
the darkness by degrees began
to partially clear away but there
was no sun. The scene was
changed, the section of Burney
burny still left looked like a
St Pierre after the eruption. A
great number of the men folk
living in the section muzzled
were busy rescuing the injured
and removing the dead.

All northern western and
northeastern Burney burny were
more tornados calmy in history.

It seems absolutely extraordinary
if not ridiculous that this storm
first called the "Oliver Twst" got its
name changed to "Sweetie Pie".

The tornadoes with who we
are familiar are of the most
characteristic forces of nature in
this country but who ever it
was who called this one "Sweetie
Pie" I'd like to know.

The tornados are most freq-
uent in the spring months,
but they've been known to
show up in July August and
September when the heated
surfaces of our country attracts

Lithium	Nitrogen	Carbon	Hydrogen	Boron	Fluorine	Helium	Silicon	Argon	Aluminum	Chlorine	Scandium	Manganese	Copper	Iron	Titanium	Zinc	Cobalt	Gallium	Sodium	Phosphorus	Potassium	Vanadium
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5-084

I want to speak to
the Tornado please.
What you say?
This is not a tornado its
a whirlwind?
You're very clever this
morning sent it?
Yes.

Well done me a favor,
Hang a whole hurricane
on your long nose you're
liking much to hand, and
if receive any more
of your devastation I'll
speak to the typhoon about
you - = Oh you're the
typhoon, I beg your
pardon = much obliged.

5084
the cooler air and denser 5066.
air from the Canada southern
provinces no year passes without
out some disaster taking place
at one point or another of the
normal storm zones. Houses are
often uprooted like trees, then
swallowed away like dust whole
towns have been torn to splinters
plantations ruined and even
river islands broken into shreds
and cities devastated by these
most terrible windstorms.

But a dozen of these put together
into one could not match
this one, I am also a professor
on Science. What happened
beginning at Johnston was this

A gigantic explosion of tornadoic
wind tore through with a speed
unknown. Tornadoes is still one
of the most unpredictable and
profound problems which defies
all scientists and the most
learned of geologists to explain
and one of its most singular
peculiarities is the fact that
they sometimes breaks forth suddenly
in undisturbed regions
of the country.

5067 a sympathetic relations
of this kind has long been known
between the I. S. S. and Kansas
tornadoes and it is very probable
that the Omaha and Jersey County
tornadoes had some such symp-
athetic relations with the tornadoes
of other locations. At the time of
the Omaha disaster other tornadoes
preceded or followed it in other
sections.

Jersey County for example, the
present outburst of this "Sweetie
Pie" is apparently the culmina-
tion of a number of recent
tornado disturbances which have
been unusually severe, although
some light has been thrown on
the exact character of this most
terrible tornado by which these
seven great towns were blotted
out of existence, because of the
intense darkness and kinetic
fury of the maelstrom storm.
The exact nature of the out-
break is a matter of intense
speculation.

Few eyewitnesses of the
disaster who were survivors

5068
at the time of the occurrence
have been found and the stories
they tell are far from being
consistent and circumstantial
because of the intense darkness.

It would seem however
that no rain accompanied the
storm in the ill-fated towns
which were destroyed by a most
tremendous squall while instant
death came to many who were
in the path of the terrible
blow pipe fury which accom-
panied this palpable sweep of
wind.

The most remarkable
feature of the tornado that was
reported, was the sheeted
wide shroud where frightful con-
volusions were said to have poured
over the cities, hugging the earth
apparently and almost sweeping
away every thing in its course.
It was this probably that came
from the belly of the child cloud
when it burst.

The manner in which this
occurred and the manner in
which the swirling winds were
deflected by the convulsions of

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reverse

5069 of the deadly shroud
shroud on the direction of the towns
presents one of the most difficult
problems connected with the storm
which scientific experts will
not know what to say when
called upon to explain. It has
been said that the haridan
blew away a lot of the ground
contour, but it is probable that
the explosion of wind as distin-
guished from a mere overwind
tornado was even more extended
than that and that the whole
upper mass of the ground con-
tour was torn up like wind
does snow drifts and hurled
the fragments with desolating
force in a direction not cal-
culated though close to the earth.

What is possible the gravest disaster of the class of tornados occurred in the ground continuous region.

after deserting western Gleason
city almost in a twinkling
of an eye a good portion of
this ~~land~~^{landscape} was blown
into the air and wiped out

the map of Illinois, 5070
a few moments later and during
the progress of the storm its
debris had partially buried or
devasted the surrounding country
for miles and a dozen or more
villages and hamlets had been over-
whelmed in the earthen deluge
as deluge or wiped out by the
irresistible winds or other
phenomena attending the tremen-
dous outburst.

Several hundred people had met with sudden and terrible death; scores of others had been injured and the long roll of disaster included all types of farm animals and chickens drowning up of small streams and laying waste of large tracts of farm lands and orchards and mulberry groves.

? with a small party visited the scene. Only or nearing the territory two miles southwest of the once Gleason Asylum our party was brought face to face with the signs of such an explosive mind.

5071 Were beside the rain
of ground debris which had fallen
on and still covered the farm
lands and all vegetation. we came
upon fragments of shattered houses
evidently in some way the
work of the shroud.

Progressing the last half
mile to near Jena or what is
left of the town signs of the
great disaster grew in numbers
and intensity.

The London Times correspond-
ent was one of our party I forgot
his name said to me

"This storm drew away so
much from the contour of ground
that it was scattered for more
than twenty three miles all
around and that the force of
the squall hurled forth so
many blocks of stone one of
which it said to be fifty
feet in diameter nearly
miles." He continued: "Survivors
clawed fetid vapors swept over
us emanating from the passing

storm, I saw what was left
of great oak trees torn up
by their root laying here

and there and the 5072
whole stretch of country side for
miles wore the appearance of
having been wrthered by some
fierce and baleful blast. A few
minutes further and we had
gained the devastated crest of a
low rise of ground and now
for the first time looked forth
upon the sight we had come
to see.

I hardly know which to
pronounce the more astonishing
the prospect that now opened
before us our eyes or the sudden
ness with which it burst upon
us. It was hard to tell whether it
had been from some mighty
volcanic outburst or by an un-
conceivably strong wind.

To the former no more fitting
phrase perhaps can be applied
than that of absolute unred-
eemed desolation - so intense,
so sad and so bewildering
that I despair of describing
it adequately in detail.

On our right a little
above us rose the incised
wall of what had never been
there before, a ragged almost

5073 saw sheer cliff falling
with scarcely a break to a depth
of twenty feet. In front of the
cliff everything had been blown
away and scattered over the
face of the country side before
it on a roughly fan shaped
deposit of for the most part of
unknown depth, deep enough
however to erase every land-
mark and conceal every feature
of the deluged area.

Some tornado to do this. How
could it be possible? But seeing
is believing. To our eyes the
long stretch of country side
denuded by the explosive force
the wind seen to cover a space
of most wild devastation of be-
tween five and six miles, this
however can only be rough
conjecture.

Equally vague must be
all present attempts to de-
termine the volume of disrupted
debris etc rucked forth and
hurled forth every where by
such a force of wind. It is
incredible. If we assume

as a very moderate calculation
that the mean depth of debris
and also all sorts of house and
broken tree debris covering a partially
erased area of thirty square miles.

or not less than three to
five feet we find that the
work achieved by this great
wind ^{triumph} of natures fury
from the shroud was the
upheaval, sucking up and
scattering and wide distrib-
ution of no fewer than five
hundred tons thousand tons of
earth and other debris rocks
and other ponderous material.
The real figure is probably
much greater.

The desolation ~~is~~ beyond
gena and the mighty mass
thrown everywhere like a
volcanic outburst by the storm which
covered the earth were absolutely
incredible. Down what is left
of the slightest slopes of the
contour of ground five or six
miles away from the Gleason
Asylum was swept by the
terrible wind a vast billowing
sheet of debris mixed mysterious
with mud obliterating every

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5075 foot of the first where landscape. Here and there the eyes rested on huge disordered heaps of rocky debris in the distance resembling nothing so much as the giant concrete black substructure of some modern broken up breakwater. It was curious to see on the further side the sharp line of demarcation between the debris of house and farmland mud from torn up streams and the green forests on which it had been hurled and flung, or again the small lakes formed in every small tributary by the massive dams so suddenly raised against the passage of their stream waters.

One lake was conspicuous among the rest. It was there that a unnamed small stream itself had been arrested at its issue from a low narrow pass by a monster barrier of debris thrown right across its course by this most monsterous of winds.

Neither living thing or any sign of life could be discerned

over the whole expanse all was dismaly silent and solitary, it is also believed that this awful cyclone when it so suddenly raged along the contour of grounds and flung an unknown cubic yards of the ground material no high in the air and all direction that many of the falling fragments were so violently flung by the force of the squall that they were forced to strike the ground with such velocity as to be buried far out of sight.

The debris, dirt and everything there were driven by the whirling funnel they spread wide an upside down umbrella shape half way up causing pitchy darkness beneath, lower down it had another such canopy. This made a terrible pandemonium of sound. It is said from the concussion of the storm there was a landslide which devastated thirty square miles near the Starved Rock region.

My what a storm it is said about six miles length of the contour had been literally blown

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5077 away and spread over the face of the country. Before us for six miles in a straight line and on each side nearly as far is a reg of earth and all other kind of debris broken up in a desenhuaged fashion and among it a thousand huge boulders weighing many tons apiece.

It must have been a strong wind indeed to despose them there, And where did they come from? We never had them, On surveying the path of utter desvastation we found it to be a little more than a mile and three miles wide across, and all that did escape on either side was left nearly like the results a plowmans share.

The explosion of such a wind was caused by a too speedy a whirl of the vicious twister. It was in fact nothing more than a gigantic boiler explosion rushing forward, The main power was in the shroud, Most of all the contour ground had been actually been blown into the air in a lateral direction and

CHEVIOT RIVER 5078
GODEMAN'S
5084
earth of the contour was evidently converted by the force of the tornados irresistible squall at the moment of the explosive onrush into flying clouds of ground farm fields of crops wreckage of houses and trees and waters from the smaller streams all of which was projected into the air and flying far forward to fall at a long distance and to take the form of clouds which rushed with vast rapidity through the air and covered the country at various parts to a depth of from three to five feet or 30 square miles.

In the desvasted town and of the contour and villages totally blown away and on the low gentle long slopes of the ground contours the number of lives well never known as no bodies could be found. From very badly wounded survivors we gathered some information enabling us to describe the main feature of this curse of tornado catastrophes.

We spend a brief outline of our narrative,

135	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181
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5079 at about four o'clock
in the afternoon on August
fifteenth a frightful noise
was heard with the coming on
of intense darkness by the in-
habitants of a village ten miles
distant from an unwhirling storm
of which character they could not
determine because of the gather-
ing darkness. Though the village
was not in its path some
of them instinctively took to
flight but before they could run
more than a hundred yards
the light of day was suddenly
changed into a darkness more
intense than that of midnight,
a shower of debris poured down
upon them the ground was
shaken by the concussion caused
by the violence of the pass-
ing storm.

Many fugitives as well as
people in the houses were
overwhelmed by the deluge of all
sorts of debris but none of
the fugitives were injured
for they were more than
two hundred yards from the
village. From the statement
by these fugitives and from

5080 5081 5082 5083 5084
a personal examination
of the ground we inferred
that the debris must have
been flung fully six miles
through the air and then
swept along the ground in
great clouds for miles, all
this was done in less than
five minutes so that countless
tons of all sorts of debris
were hurled over the country
at the rate of two miles
a second. This is the speed
of the throw not the velocity
of the wind.

The velocity of the far
flung debris may be over-
estimated but in the awful
suddenness this catastrophe
was evidently one with no
equals. The contours of ground
destroyed may have been
composed of fine farm lands
and low sloping long stretch-
ing hills which was almost
instantaneously converted into
great clouds of all kinds of
debris by the irresistible wind.
of the wildly convulsed shroud.

285	124	115	100	7315	025	01 L	01 L
286	125	116	101	7316	026	01 L	01 L
287	126	117	102	7317	027	01 L	01 L
288	127	118	103	7318	028	01 L	01 L
289	128	119	104	7319	029	01 L	01 L
290	129	120	105	7320	030	01 L	01 L
291	130	121	106	7321	031	01 L	01 L
292	131	122	107	7322	032	01 L	01 L
293	132	123	108	7323	033	01 L	01 L
294	133	124	109	7324	034	01 L	01 L
295	134	125	110	7325	035	01 L	01 L
296	135	126	111	7326	036	01 L	01 L
297	136	127	112	7327	037	01 L	01 L
298	137	128	113	7328	038	01 L	01 L
299	138	129	114	7329	039	01 L	01 L
300	139	130	115	7330	040	01 L	01 L
301	140	131	116	7331	041	01 L	01 L
302	141	132	117	7332	042	01 L	01 L
303	142	133	118	7333	043	01 L	01 L
304	143	134	119	7334	044	01 L	01 L
305	144	135	120	7335	045	01 L	01 L
306	145	136	121	7336	046	01 L	01 L
307	146	137	122	7337	047	01 L	01 L
308	147	138	123	7338	048	01 L	01 L
309	148	139	124	7339	049	01 L	01 L
310	149	140	125	7340	050	01 L	01 L
311	150	141	126	7341	051	01 L	01 L
312	151	142	127	7342	052	01 L	01 L
313	152	143	128	7343	053	01 L	01 L
314	153	144	129	7344	054	01 L	01 L
315	154	145	130	7345	055	01 L	01 L
316	155	146	131	7346	056	01 L	01 L
317	156	147	132	7347	057	01 L	01 L
318	157	148	133	7348	058	01 L	01 L
319	158	149	134	7349	059	01 L	01 L
320	159	150	135	7350	060	01 L	01 L
321	160	151	136	7351	061	01 L	01 L
322	161	152	137	7352	062	01 L	01 L
323	162	153	138	7353	063	01 L	01 L
324	163	154	139	7354	064	01 L	01 L
325	164	155	140	7355	065	01 L	01 L
326	165	156	141	7356	066	01 L	01 L
327	166	157	142	7357	067	01 L	01 L
328	167	158	143	7358	068	01 L	01 L
329	168	159	144	7359	069	01 L	01 L
330	169	160	145	7360	070	01 L	01 L
331	170	161	146	7361	071	01 L	01 L
332	171	162	147	7362	072	01 L	01 L
333	172	163	148	7363	073	01 L	01 L
334	173	164	149	7364	074	01 L	01 L
335	174	165	150	7365	075	01 L	01 L
336	175	166	151	7366	076	01 L	01 L
337	176	167	152	7367	077	01 L	01 L
338	177	168	153	7368	078	01 L	01 L
339	178	169	154	7369	079	01 L	01 L
340	179	170	155	7370	080	01 L	01 L
341	180	171	156	7371	081	01 L	01 L
342	181	172	157	7372	082	01 L	01 L
343	182	173	158	7373	083	01 L	01 L
344	183	174	159	7374	084	01 L	01 L
345	184	175	160	7375	085	01 L	01 L
346	185	176	161	7376	086	01 L	01 L
347	186	177	162	7377	087	01 L	01 L
348	187	178	163	7378	088	01 L	01 L
349	188	179	164	7379	089	01 L	01 L
350	189	180	165	7380	090	01 L	01 L
351	190	181	166	7381	091	01 L	01 L
352	191	182	167	7382	092	01 L	01 L
353	192	183	168	7383	093	01 L	01 L
354	193	184	169	7384	094	01 L	01 L
355	194	185	170	7385	095	01 L	01 L
356	195	186	171	7386	096	01 L	01 L
357	196	187	172	7387	097	01 L	01 L
358	197	188	173	7388	098	01 L	01 L
359	198	189	174	7389	099	01 L	01 L
360	199	190	175	7390	100	01 L	01 L
361	200	191	176	7391	101	01 L	01 L
362	201	192	177	7392	102	01 L	01 L
363	202	193	178	7393	103	01 L	01 L
364	203	194	179	7394	104	01 L	01 L
365	204	195	180	7395	105	01 L	01 L
366	205	196	181	7396	106	01 L	01 L
367	206	197	182	7397	107	01 L	01 L
368	207	198	183	7398	108	01 L	01 L
369	208	199	184	7399	109	01 L	01 L
370	209	200	185	7400	110	01 L	01 L
371	210	201	186	7401	111	01 L	01 L
372	211	202	187	7402	112	01 L	01 L
373	212	203	188	7403	113	01 L	01 L
374	213	204	189	7404	114	01 L	01 L
375	214	205	190	7405	115	01 L	01 L
376	215	206	191	7406	116	01 L	01 L
377	216	207	192	7407	117	01 L	01 L
378	217	208	193	7408	118	01 L	01 L
379	218	209	194	7409	119	01 L	01 L
380	219	210	195	7410	120	01 L	01 L
381	220	211	196	7411	121	01 L	01 L
382	221	212	197	7412	122	01 L	01 L
383	222	213	198	7413	123		

5081 The quantity of debris
hurled forth by this mighty
wind must have been en-
ormous. So this terrific storm
is the most destructive tornadic
hazard unequalled in violence
of all times but it is believed
the worst of all was its devas-
tation of the contour of grounds be-
tween Gleason and the Asylum.

This contour of grounds lies
between Gleason city and the
Gleason Orphanage. In size it is
significant and is or was a most
beautiful territory in Illinois. We
do not know the main size of
it but a length of six miles
towards the asylum was wiped off
the map by the storm.

We usually believe tornadoes
after traveling fifty miles in
ordinary cases will ultimately
die away or go back up into
the cloud with no marked
change than perhaps the total
devastation of a few towns or so.
But such was not the case
on this terrible August 15th
1913.

The sequel was at once un-
expected and terrible as it came

5082 So suddenly and got so
dark no one actually saw what
took place there nearest to
the scene of the savage storm
having enough to do to save
their own lives while the
dense clouds baffled all
observation.

It is said the phase of the most
greatest violence set in the last
part of the storm during the last
forty five seconds, Farmers says
at a comparatively safe distance
that the land contour had
vanished in a dense cloud of
convulsed vapor the height of
which was estimated at not
less than twenty five up, at inter-
vals frightful detonations of
thunder resounded admed the
crazy roar of the storm and
after a time a rain of all kinds
of debris began to fall at
places more than ten miles
distant, even more.

70 miles around the most
bright, fiercest flashes of
lightning ever seen rent the
clouds and at a distance
of fully forty miles

and when the rain to dimensions
and at ten a.m. it ceased

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enough
trash,
and
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debris
was and
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5084 ghastly corposants gleamed
on the branches of trees. I heresay
phenomena grew more and more
alarming until the last of the
storm passing away when an
uproar of most fearful intensity
shook earth and river and re-
braked the air and being far
far the most violent and pro-
ductive of the most widespread
results.

It was in fact the most terrible
and tremendous windstorm ever
burst in its intensity known
in human history.

By the force of its out-
fling of debris by its whirl
the tornado spread ruin and
death over many surrounding
leagues out of its path.

Its mile length of the ground
contour was blown completely
away.

of villages and towns and
farmhouses and other farm
property some had disappeared
some were destroyed, and part-
tally covered by fallen
debris while many changes

had taken place in all the 5084
grounds on river vessels.
near by all sorts of debris fell enough
to cover the decks like scattered trash.
The enormous clouds of the tornado
storm which were so high in the
sky mingled with all sorts of debris
and pulled up high into the air and
then flung far outward darkened
the sky for a great area, around the
country.

At Joliet and also Chicago, and
elsewhere, even for about a hundred
miles away from the tornado it
produced an effect like a London
fog. This began at six in the
evening of August 15th. Soon after
quarter after six the light had
become lurid and yellow and
camp and electric lights were
required in the houses than
came a downpour of rain mingled
with small debris and by
half past six everything was
in complete darkness until
morning.

This soon began to
lighten and the rain to diminish
and at ten A.M. it ceased.